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Feature

The Weapons with which We are Fighting

Silas Chan

Those who truly believe in God are like good soldiers of Jesus Christ. We must prepare ourselves to fight against the wicked one in the battlefield of the gospel, aiming at saving the souls of mankind. With this important responsibility, what kind of weapons should we use?

1. Coming before the presence of God

Paul says in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." Here we learn that we are involved in a spiritual battle with the wicked one, who is causing the Church today to face challenges against the truth and is using devious tactics to capture men's hearts and disrupt the divine work. We should not therefore rely on our own strength or power, but the Spirit of the true God. As David said to the giant Goliath, "You come to me with a sword, with

a spear, and with javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied” (1 Sam 17:45). Our God is the Almighty One. We are only His vessels. We have this treasure in these earthen vessels to show that this great power is from God and not from ourselves. We may be hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed. We may be perplexed, but not in despair (2 Cor 4:7-8). If we set the true God before us, we cannot then be moved, for He is always at our right hand. As long as we constantly pray to Him and walk with Him, He will surely give us the courage to fight and break through the obstacles and make every thought obedient to Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

2. Arming ourselves with the mindset of suffering

As Peter said, “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin” (1 Pe 4:1). Human failure is often as a result of losing heart. However, nothing is impossible for a willing heart - no pain that we suffer in our lives is in vain. If we are determined to finish our spiritual journey, we must stand fast in our faith and serve the Lord faithfully to the end. This requires a mindset of being prepared to suffer. As recorded in the Scriptures, “If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you ... Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter” (1 Pe 4:14a, 16). As a matter of fact, it is good for us to experience affliction. In this way, we are able to learn God's statutes and experience His affection towards us. Therefore, we must not become disheartened. Even though our outward man is perishing, the inward man is being renewed day by day. Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, will eventually give way to an eternal glory which far outweighs all our suffering (2 Cor 4:16-17).

Today, as the True Jesus Church is approaching her centenary, we should reflect upon testimonies from her history. The Holy Spirit first established the Church in the East. Those who came before us preached the gospel far and wide and witnessed for the Spirit of truth so as to bring many to believe in the Lord. They then helped establish churches at various places through toil and labour. They truly have set a good example for us to follow, and passed on the precious faith to us. How beautiful are their feet! We are a generation living in the end times. We must consider how to revive our own faith, further the gospel and build up the Church. We need to restore our mentality to what it was at the beginning and be willing to endure hardship for the sake of the gospel. We should not love the world, but yearn instead for the heavenly crown of glory and wait for our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is coming again soon.

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Current Status of the Divine Work in the UK

UKGA

Thank God for His mercy and guidance. Here is a brief account of the various divine works carried out by the UKGA this year.

Pastoral Work

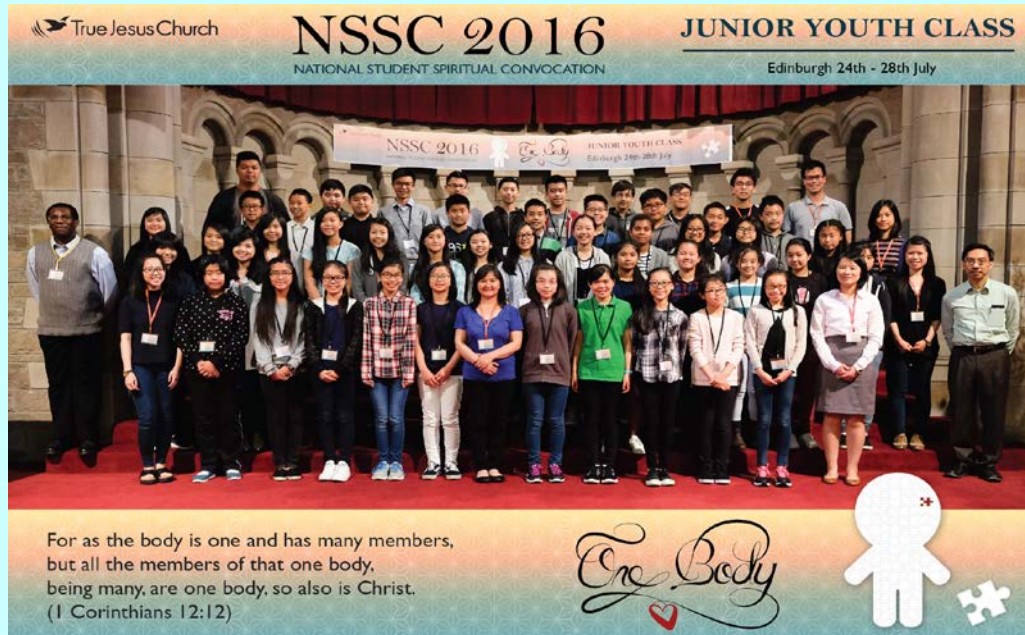
1. The national fellowships we held so far this year include Married Couples Fellowship (with 130 participants), Evergreen Fellowship (with 280 participants) and Sisters Fellowship (with 230 and 126 participants on the first and second day respectively).
2. Local churches have been holding evangelical and spiritual convocations since January. One of them was the 40th anniversary thanksgiving service and spiritual convocation of Newcastle Church held from 31 July to 2 August, with brethren from all over the UK attending. Apart from the UKGA preachers, the IA also assigned Pr. Daniel Chin and Pr. HH Ko to assist in these convocations.

Evangelical Work

Various evangelical events have been organised by the local Evangelical Planning Groups (EPGs) according to their annual work plans. The National Evangelical Group under the UKGA recently also set up a standing group and regional working groups after reviewing its organisational structure. In addition, instant messaging is used for communication between EPG members, and information relating to the evangelical events is uploaded onto the UKGA website. Meanwhile, doctrinal training for EPG members will be reinforced so as to promote and co-ordinate the evangelical work of the local EPGs.

Religious Education

1. The National Student Spiritual Convocation was held in the three local churches located in the north of the UK with 117 students attending.
2. The RE-in-charge and Class-in-charge training was held for the first time at Sunderland Church with the assistance of Sis. Patricia Chen (USGA). There were 43 RE teachers participating.



National Student Spiritual Convocation held in Edinburgh

Training

1. The Africa Ministry Training Course organised by the IA WHDWM, with the help of the UKGA and the Africa Ministry Committee, was held at London Church in early January. The lecturers were Pr. Derren Liang and Pr. HH Ko, both from the IA DWM, as well as Pr. FF Chong and Pr. TK Chin. There were 20 brethren from around the UK attending the course, as well as 26 brothers and sisters from the US, Canada, Europe, Hong Kong and the Dominican Republic.
2. The 4-day Adult Theological Training Course was again held in separate classes with Pr. HH Ko (IA), Pr. Michael Chan and Pr. Steven Shek giving lectures. The total number of participants was 122.
3. Two seminars have been held for the first time this year, namely the Minister and Worker Spiritual Cultivation Seminar, which was led by Pr. FF Chong and Pr. Steven Shek, and the Minister Spouse Seminar, which was led by Pr. Daniel Chin (IA) and Pr. Michael Chan.
4. The Youth Theological Training Course was held at churches in London and Leicester. Lectures were given over the three-week course by Pr. Tony Kuo (IA) and the UKGA preachers. The number of participants was 75, including youths from Malaysia currently studying in the UK, Europe and Taiwan.

Literary Ministry

1. This year's Literary Ministry Seminar was held from 18 to 22 June at Newcastle Church.

Two workshops were organised, namely English writing and audio transcription. There were 16 members attending, including one from Taiwan.

2. With the consent of the IA Department of Literary Ministry, the UKGA Editing Team has finished the translation and revision of 174 English hymns after nearly three years of work. The revised hymns have gone through a 6-month trial period. After the final stage of editing, it is hoped that a revised version of the English Hymns of Praise will be published before the end of the year for use in the UK.

Overseas Ministry

1. The UKGA has continued to work with the Africa Ministry Committee to assign workers to Africa, including to Ghana, Zambia, Malawi, Kenya and Tanzania, to assist in the pastoral and evangelical work as well as training. In addition, with the financial support of the IA, we are providing assistance to church building construction where appropriate and necessary.
2. This February, two workers were sent for a pastoral visit to Mauritania for the first time. The brethren all came from China to work there. When the workers arrived, they held services each day, guided them to pray for the Holy Spirit and strengthened their faith with the word of God. Currently, the UKGA preachers continue to hold services with the brethren there through the Internet.



Visit the members in Mauritania

3. The UKGA preachers and board members have been making a number of pastoral visits to Europe, Argentina and Russia and are assisting with the spiritual convocations and seminars held in these places.
4. For the past two years, Dn. Luke Chan has been recruited by the IA to assist in the pastoral work of the churches in South Africa. At present, there are a number of places of worship, and spiritual convocations are held there every year.

We must not forget that we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. May the God who grants all grace, wisdom and ability continue to guide and strengthen all the good works of the Church in the UK. Amen.

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Church News

Australia Holy Work Report

Zephaniah Li

Australia's liaison location is currently composed of five churches, one house of prayer, one service location, and is in charge of pastoring work in two pioneering areas. Apart from the routine pastoral, evangelical, and training works, below is a simple introduction of the various local churches, houses of prayer, and pioneering areas.

Adelaide

Adelaide House of Prayer held its church dedication on May 10. At the same time, it held its first three-day national Australia liaison office council members meeting. Thank God for His continual guidance. Despite the obstacles we faced with the government, God has guided and provided through the process of government registration to purchasing and renovating all the way to finally dedicating the chapel. Today, there are still about two hundred thousand Australian dollars in bank loan. We hope each local church can show support and aid with the spirit of oneness in family.

Sydney

Similarly, Parramatta Church has long exceeded its maximum occupancy. Because of this the church purchased a chapel in the Bexley region in December 2014. Thank the Lord. The church has just been approved by the Rockdale government on September 7. We look forward to the establishment of the second church in the Sydney region.

Brisbane

This is the golden coast service location. Since December 2015, there has been steady weekly Sabbath services and an average of more than 30 members and truth seekers attending the services. For instance, the attendance rate on August 20 reached 49 people. We believe the golden coast may soon become another important and good gospel field in Australia.

Melbourne

Evangelical work at this place has had significant improvement. For example, there are on average more than 15 truth seekers attending recent evangelical services. In recent years there are also many members who immigrated to Melbourne. Therefore, we believe in the near future, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can surely establish another gospel point in Melbourne.

Perth

There are currently two churches – Dianella Church and Cannington Church. Though there are fewer members in Dianella, the church is actively promoting training work. On the other hand, Cannington Church is planning to hold next year's Australia Liaison Office Meeting, as well as preparing for the church dedication. Thank God. Presently there are several very stable truth seekers who attend service regularly, some of whom are non-Asian friends. May God continue to guide us.

Darwin

Currently there are a total of 11 members at the Darwin service location. Starting from 2011, the Darwin work team has especially utilized Taiwan GA's youth teaching materials to create a systematic way in building up members' faith. Thank the Lord. Local members' faith are quite stable and hopefully very soon there can be a breakthrough in the pioneering road of the gospel.

Fiji

Fiji's pastoral work in pioneering regions was started six years by a few brothers from Fuqing, who started a sand and gravel mining business and brick factory in Nauva. Gradually, there are now ten some members. These members also brought their children to study abroad, so soon religious education will become one of the main works.

Papua New Guinea

This year in August two workers were sent to Papua New Guinea for a pastoral visit. When they created a social network group, they happened to discover that there are more than ten members scattered throughout different areas. From then on they were able to visit those members at least once a year, and have been able to keep track of the members whereabouts

through WeChat.

Thank God. Australia is a country with large lands, bountiful resources and a highly developed economy. We believe God is willing to prosper the work in Australia and not only to let the migrated members enjoy a comfortable life. However, instead, to fully utilize the bountiful resources blessed by God to fulfill the commission entrusted by God. We ask that every church in the world pray for the work in Australia so the land where the sun rises from may also become a place where God's promises and commission will be fulfilled in the last days.



National Working Youth Seminar



Short Term Theological Training Course

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 **Intercession**

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel	
10/19-10/20	Taiwan	IA SCO Meeting	IA SCO members	
10/20-11/14	Malaysia	National Regional Spiritual Meeting	J W Lin	
9/15-10/11	Australia	Pastoral visit/Spiritual & Evangelistic Convocation (Brisbane) Retreat for Youth and Middle-Age Adult/RE Refresher Course (Sydney)	Silas Kong	
9/30-10/17 10/28-11/14	New Zealand	Residential pastoral (Christchurch)	James Vun Peter Yang	
10/8-10/9	Philippines	Spiritual Convocation (Ulotanga)	Zacchaeus Yong & Sabah Preachers	
10/10-10/11		Mindanao Ministers & Spouses Seminar	Dn Philip & Pr John	
10/13-11/9		PMCC Pastoral Visiting (Luzon & Mindanao)	Pr. Zaccheus Yong	
10/15-10/16		Spiritual Convocation (Manila)	Pr. Peter & Pr. Zacchaeus	
10/24-10/28		Preachers Seminar (Napolan)	West Malaysia Preachers	
10/29-10/30		RE Teachers Seminar (Manila)	Zebedee Chong & Sabah Workers	
10/29&10/30		PGA Exco & GA Delegate Meeting (Napolan)	PGA Exco & Delegate members	
10/9-10/19		Myanmar	Youth Leaders Training & Youth Spiritual Meeting	Lemuel Leong
10/5-10/17		Thailand	Pastoral Visit & Spiritual Convocation/Evangelical Service	MY Chao
10/17-10/31	Kampuche	Pastoral work	Caleb Chen	
10/25-11/25	US	TTP Training Courses	HH Ko	
10/3-12	Canada	National Adult Theological Seminar (Vancouver)	Jacob Chen	
10/14-11/6		Bible Seminar (Toronto/Montreal/Calgary/Edmonton)		
October	Bolivia	Evangelical & Pastoral and Training	Sheng Ming Chen	
10/28-10/30	Austria	Spiritual Convocation & Evangelical Service (Salzburg)	TK Chin	
Oct./Nov.	Spain	Visit & Concern (Madrid / Albacete / Barcelona)	Bao Qin Wang	

9/12-12/12	South Africa	Pastoral Ministry/Training & Lesotho Outreach	Luke Chan
10/24-11/27	West Africa	Workers Training (Ghana)	Local Workers
9/15-10/16	East Africa	Pastoral Ministry & Training (Kenya/Tanzania)	T K Chin Samuel Kuo
October	Mauritania	Pastoral Visit & Care(China Members)	Michael Chan Luke Chan

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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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