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Feature

The Test for View of Value

Kuang-Ming Wu

1. Preface

God recognized Abraham as a man fearing God (Gen 22:12). “YHWH Wireh” was manifested just right after he passed through the test of faith. The Bible says, “as it is said to this day, ‘In the Mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’” The Mount of the Lord refers to Mount Zion, the city of Jerusalem, and the True Church established by Jesus Christ in the present day. Since God has promised that He will provide, the chosen people shall be without want and worry free.

2. “Those who fear God” can stand to the test

Genesis 22:1 says, “Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham.” What does “after these things” refer to? It refers to Abraham’s good faith and conduct, described in Genesis chapter 12-20. Abraham was chosen by God and justified by faith (Rom 4:9, Gal 3:8-9). He lived a life of building altars with faith wherever he went. Loving God and loving man were displayed in his actions. Through the interaction between him and his nephew, Lot, we can see Abraham is a good elder, full of mercy, compassion, and love. However, this kind of faith still did not qualify Abraham as a man of fearing God.

3. Reflect the test God gave to Abraham

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you" (Gen 22:1-2).

(1) Your son

Isaac was the son of Abraham and the blessed descendant promised by God (Gen 21:12). Abraham and Sarah were well advanced in age, and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing (Gen 18:9-15). Without God's exceptional grace, Abraham and Sarah would have no children. Let us reflect upon what does God want to remind us? The Bible tells us that we bring nothing into this world (1Tim 6:7). It seems all the inner possessions, such as wisdom, knowledge, and power, or outward possession, such as honor, status, and earth, belong to us; actually these things are like Isaac – God's exceptional grace (Ecc 9:11, 1Cor 4:7).

(2) Your only son

Why did God remind Abraham that Isaac is his only son, even though He had already been clear about it? It is because God would like to remind you and me. Sacrifice "the only son" means offer all to the point that nothing is left. In our physical lives, there has to be something we offer to God and lose at the same time. Time is an obvious example. The more time we use for serving God, the less time we have for pursuing the world. The Bible tells us, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Mt 6:24).

(3) Isaac, whom you love

Isaac, Abraham's only son, was born when he was one hundred years old. Abraham's love toward his son is beyond words. But why did God say to Abraham, "Isaac, whom you love"? Similarly, God tries to say this to you and me – whether we are willingly to completely offer the precious things we love and have been pursuing to the altar.

4. Conclusion

Through the incident of testing Abraham, God shows us His promise that The-Lord-Will-Provide in His mountain (the True Church). "YHWH Wireh" appeared after the test of faith. When God recognizes that we are fearful to Him, He will provide everything to us. Just as in David's psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters" (Ps 23:1-2). God is like a shepherd who prepares green pasture for the sheep, and leads them to the still

waters.

Instead of bustling for our children's education, skill trainings, wealth, etc, we shall return with action and focus on cultivating their faith, so they will have a correct view of value and be fearful to God. Since the Bible tells us, "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him amen, to the glory of God through us" (2Cor 1:20).

The test God gave to Abraham was a test of Abraham's view of value. When we are willingly to offer the things out of God's grace, fully and the things we love the most to the altar for God, we can be recognized as one fearful to Him in God's eyes.

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Church News

Current Ministry of German-Speaking Countries in Europe

The German speaking church district in Europe is composed of the churches in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Currently, within this area there are four prayer houses and one gathering location.

Germany

Hamburg Prayer House:

Hamburg is located in the northern part of Germany, and currently there are 20 members. The members are living in the Hamburg, Berlin, and Braunschweig areas. Hamburg Prayer House hosts one Spiritual Convocation annually and numerous other special services. Since 2013, College Youth Fellowship (CYF) has hosted a fellowship for four consecutive years.



September 7-11, 2016, CYF hosted in Hamburg Prayer House

Rhineland Prayer House:

Thank God that Rhineland Prayer House dedicated its chapel building in May of 2015. The new chapel provides ample space for use. In October, Rhineland Prayer House started hosting German-speaking fall Spiritual Convocation. Normally, about 10 members attend services in Rhineland Prayer House. Due to a large fluidity with the members, they have asked for the help from Heidelberg Prayer House for the sermon leaders since the end of last year.

Please continue to pray for Rhineland Prayer House for God’s guidance to prosper the church. Also please pray for those members who cannot come to church regularly due to work. May God guide and protect them.



September 30-October 2 Fall Spiritual Convocation



October 2-3, 2016. After the Spiritual Convocation many youths sang hymns in church during a national holiday

Heidelberg Prayer House:

Heidelberg Prayer House has about 30 members. There are 15 members in the youth fellowship. There are 3 religious education classes with 11 teachers. Thank God for His guidance, not only can Heidelberg Prayer House pastor the local members, we often assist with the holy works in Rhineland area and Switzerland. We have also visited members in Spain and Italy. In April of this year, Heidelberg Prayer House hosted a youth homiletic camp and spring Spiritual Convocation. At the end of July, we hosted a children's Spiritual Convocation. In the beginning of August, we performed Holy Communion and special services for remote area members.

In the summer of this year, Heidelberg Prayer House located a suitable chapel and we are now actively applying for church use. Please continue to pray for the chapel purchasing.



March 25-27, 2016 Spring Spiritual Convocation at Heidelberg

Switzerland

Switzerland area currently has 8 members. They are being pastored by Heidelberg Prayer House. Other than Zurich and Basel having a set Sabbath worship schedule, those members scattered in Bern and Luzern could only have family services or receive visiting members who come to care for them from time to time.

Austria

Salzburg Prayer House and Vienna Service Location:

There are about 10 members and a few truth seeking friends in these 2 service locations. We have two Spiritual Convocations and one special service each year. We often have members from different parts of the world come to keep the Sabbath. Most of our memberships are youths, students, and retirees, so the fluidity is quite high. Please pray for the gospel work in Austria and the health of the local church members.



September 16-18, 2016. Fall Spiritual Convocation at Vienna

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Church News

Current Ministry in Indonesia- Medical Missionary in the Pioneering Area Blitar

Indonesia GA

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”
(Matthew 9:35) This is the spirit of our medical missionary.’

In the name of Lord Jesus Christ I share. The gospel work in Indonesia is centralized in Canaan school and pioneer areas. Some pioneer areas are assisted by the General Assembly and some by the local churches. Thank our Lord Jesus, in June, because of His love that the Indonesia General Assembly Evangelical Department was able to successfully complete the second medical missionary event in Blitar. (The first event was held in Pangkal Pinang.)

Background, Goals, and Obstacles

Blitar pioneer area is assisted by Malang church with a membership of 26. It is very difficult for the people living in Blitar pioneer area to receive adequate medical services since the closest medical facility is 45 minutes away. Therefore, the people in Blitar often seek medical help from a wizard. The people in Blitar believe in the more dominating Islamic religion in the area. Because of this, our gospel work also received some limitations. The village leader did not give us permission to preach the gospel directly to the people. Furthermore, Blitar pioneer area is located far away from the city so it is difficult to receive resources. Therefore, we hope that through medical missionary events we can allow the people in Blitar to know that we have a True Jesus Church in Blitar where they can find the precious gospel of salvation.

Volunteer work and Responsibilities

There were 20 people who participated in the volunteer work including 15 members, 3 of whom are physicians, 2 truth seekers who are pharmacists, and 3 church pastors. The responsibilities of the 15 members are to education the people on making healthy food, taking videos/pictures, taking records, ushering, preparing meals, assisting patients workflow, translating between Blitar language and Indonesian, helping people to rely on the healing of the True God, and introducing Jesus Christ.



The Content of Medical Missionary

The Medical Missionary includes the following:

1. No cost medical treatment (outpatient, pharmacy)
2. Hypertension and healthy nutrition
3. Training in making healthy food

May 28, 2016 - First day of medical missionary

The volunteers started with morning prayer. Patients started to come at 10:30am. There was a lunch break from noon followed by education in hypertension. The event continued until 3pm. There were a total of 83 people who came to seek medical assistance on the first day. After the event, the volunteer workers gathered for Sabbath worship. After the Sabbath service, the volunteer workers trained the church members in Blitar pioneer area on how to prepare cassava. Cassava is the one of the most abundant agricultural products in Blitar. We hope the members in Blitar can receive some knowledge and skills in preparing and producing food products so they can fulfill their daily necessities. We concluded the day with an evaluation on the first day of medical missionary.

May 29, 2016 – Second day of medical missionary

Again, we started with morning prayer. At noon, we conducted training on how to prepare healthy food. After lunch, we continued to treat patients. There were a total of 47 people from the neighborhood.

Conclusion

The physicians discovered that most of the people in Blitar have hypertension. They expressed, “having attended so many medical missionary events, this is the first time that everyone who came is actually sick. Normally, in these events, most of the people who come are only here for health exams.” Also, the people in Blitar responded well with the medical missionary. They hoped the volunteers can host this event again. The amount of patients exceeded our estimation. Initially, we only distributed 100 invitation cards, but there were 130 people who came.

This event gave the people in Blitar, church members, and volunteer workers much edification and benefits. We hope that this event not only allows the people in Blitar to receive the much needed medical assistance, but that they understand receiving salvation of the soul is even more

important. During the event, every volunteer worker was very active, worked in unity, and worked proactively. Everyone believed deeply that Lord Jesus Christ has already given us much blessings, therefore, we must proactively repay the love of God by working diligently in preaching the gospel.

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Intercession

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

| Date | Location | Program | Personnel |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 11/29-12/24 | Taiwan | Theological Seminary Training Courses | HH Ko |
| 11/27-12/20 | Sabah | Students Theological Training Course | YZ Li |
| 11/29-12/19 | Malaysia | Short Term Theological Training Course (Chinese/English Class) | SD Li |
| 11/11-11/14 | Hong Kong | Internet Evangelism Training | JR Chen |
| 11/1-11/7 | Philippines | Theological Camp (Laperian) | Pr Peter & Pr James & Pr John |
| 11/24-11/25 | | Spiritual Convocation (Laperian) | Pr John & Pr Ezzkiel |
| 11/5-6,12-13, 19-20,26-27 | Vietnam | Pastoral and Missionary Works | Hosea Hoo /Local Workers |
| 11/4-11/7 | Samoa | Spiritual Convocation | FA Shih |
| 11/18-11/24 | Argentina | Pastoral Work & Holy Work Personnel Seminar | D. Liang |
| 11/25-11/27 | Chile | Spiritual Convocation | D. Liang |
| 11/29-12/8 | FOZ | Pastoral Work / Training | D. Liang/M. Kuo |
| Nov. | Ecuador | Pastoral Work | CM Chu |
| 11/12-11/27 | Dominican Rep. | Evangelical Service/Spiritual Convocation | Samuel Kuo |
| 11/25-11/27 | Germany | Holy Works Training & Special Service (Hamburg) | Steven Shek |
| Nov. | Greece | Members Visit & Concern / Spiritual Convocation | Chi-Jen Hsieh /Bao Qin Wang |

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|----------------|-------------|--|------------------------------|
| 11/25-1/1/2017 | West Africa | Pastoral ministry/ Training Student Convocation (Ghana) | Michael Chan / Volunteers |
| 11/24-12/25 | East Africa | Student Convocation/ Training (Kenya) | Johnny Liu / Volunteers |

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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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