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Feature

Breaking through the Barriers in Global Evangelism

Yung Ji Lin

As the establishment of the true church approaches a 100-year milestone, our focus is the mission entrusted to us by the Lord to evangelize to all corners of the world. How do we carry out this sacred mission? We trust that all brethren who love the Lord are willing to put in all they have for Him, for He has abolished death that is feared by all and manifested the incorruptible life that is longed for by all. This is indeed an important gospel.

In order to effectively preach the gospel to all corners of the world, we must overcome the following barriers:

1. Cultural barrier

It has been difficult to advance the work of evangelism in Western society partly because of language barriers, the complexity of faith and religious beliefs, and the difference in

people's living habits. We have not been able to accurately convey our gospel to the people in Western society. This is an important issue that we must strive to break through.

Because of this issue, we hold a short-term theological training seminar every year in different countries in the hope that our younger generation will one day become the gospel soldiers in the West and break through the cultural barrier (Isaiah 60:12-13).

2. The problem with shortage of workers

We lack preachers in many countries. The International Assembly has been using a "touring" method for pastoring the churches, leading to ineffective follow-up and an inability to reach the desired outcome.

We hope that all countries have a global vision, with a determination to rise and shine out light, and actively encourage their youths to dedicate themselves to love the Lord. Only when everyone is willing to be used by the Lord and actively participate in worldwide evangelism will we be able to reach the desired outcome for our evangelical and pastoral work. We can then take one step further to expand outward so that the gospel may be preached to the ends of the world (Isaiah 60:1-5).

3. The difficulty of offering oneself up

If the workers in the pioneering regions do not have the determination to love the Lord above all else, they will not be able to pass the test of loneliness.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). Therefore, the evangelical workers in the pioneering regions must also make such a choice!

God's servants must emulate the Lord and be like a grain buried in the soil, which will produce many more seeds – thirty-fold, sixty-fold, or even one-hundred-fold; then the church will surely prosper.

4. The difficulty of working in one heart

The workers must be united in the Lord in order to be effective in their evangelical work.

We must submit to the truth in everything we do and be united in the truth, so that we will

not leave a foothold for Satan to sabotage our holy work (Ephesians 4:13).

In terms of the management of a church, the organizational bylaws must be clearly set and duties clearly assigned. Everyone must submit to the rules of the church. This will make it easy for people to work in one heart. This is also the most basic requirement for church development.

5. The problem with utilizing manpower

Evangelizing is not only to save souls, but to care for people's physical necessities (1 John 3:17-18).

To facilitate our evangelical work, we must make the best use of different talents – workers in the medical industry, architecture, hair styling, farming and raising pigs, etc., to carry out charitable work. If we can coordinate the evangelical work and the charitable work well, it will surely assist the development of our evangelism.

However, the work of saving soul surpasses the charitable work of aiding the poor. The Lord Jesus saw that the people of the time only asked for miraculous signs instead of the gospel of salvation and said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth." (Mark 1:38). This incident tells us that we must set our priorities straight.

Concluding Remarks:

In doing any kind of holy work, we will face many different challenges; some from the attacks of the evil one, while others from human negligence. At times, things seem hopeless and no one knows how to break through the bottleneck. However, if we put in more effort in our prayer, crisis will become opportunities, and opportunities will bring the Lord's abundant blessings.

Pray to the Lord to guide us so that at the 100-year milestone of our church, we may reflect on how to best break through the barriers we face. If everyone can submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will certainly be able to collectively come up with potential solutions and break through to a new horizon.

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2016 Japan Church Holy Work Update

Ching- Chen Hu

The perfect Gospel has been preached to Japan for seventy years (1946-2016), however, the pace of people getting saved is slow. There are only two churches in the Tokyo area, Yokohama and Chiba. Two prayer houses, Kansai and Kawaguchi, were added this year. Although it looked like growth, it is very minute compared to the population of Japan. All churches must emphasize the importance of prayer and ask for the mercy of the Lord. For the salvation received by men are through the mercy of God (Rom 9:14-18).

Every word from God is with power (Lk 1:37), not a word failed from what God has promised (Jos 21:45). For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us (2Cor 1:20). Since it is through the promise of the Bible, the true church that belongs to Him will become prosperous. The glory of the latter temple shall be greater than the former (Hag 2:6-9). The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, will be repaired, and the ruins will be rebuilt, just as the old (Amos 9:11-12; Act 15:14-18).

God will work to build up the glory in the holy work of the Japanese region after these seventy years. The churches in Japanese cannot afford to be in division. They can only become unified in Christ through working together in Christ, breaking themselves, rebuilding themselves, and preaching that only Jesus Christ is the savior.

Below is a simple report of the holy work in the Japanese region:

I. Membership

823 enrolled (as of June 2016).

II. Establish Prayer House

Two prayer houses were established in March 2016.

1. Kansai Prayer House: Approximately 74 members (June 2016), location of rental for each

week's Sabbath service is held at different civic centers.



Spring Spiritual Convocation of Kansai Prayer House

2. Kawaguchi Prayer House: Approximately 50 members (June 2016), service is held at members' homes. Time is every Wednesday evening from 7:30-8:30, every fourth Sunday afternoon from 2:30-3:30, and every first and third Sabbath for both morning and afternoon. Timothy Fellowship established from youths of each church also hold service at Kawaguchi Prayer House every fourth Sunday from 11:30-13:00.



Kawaguchi Prayer House

III. Spiritual Convocation

1. Spring Spiritual Convocation

Each church and prayer house held it at different times. The main topic was The Spiritual Battle from Revelation, chapter twelve. Preacher Daniel Chin sent from IA was the main speaker. Resident Preacher Ching-Jen Hu was in charge of prayer sessions and the Holy Sacraments.

2. Fall Spiritual Convocation

Every church and prayer house held it at different times. The topic was Believers' Handbook, Marriage Seminar, Practicing Family Religious Education, The Life Planned by God, Deny Ourselves to Follow the Lord, Carry the Cross, and Follow the Lord. The main speaker was Elder Ying-Fu Lai sent by IA. Resident Preacher Ching-Jen Hu was in charge of prayer sessions and the Holy Sacraments.

Total of 23 baptized, 477 received the cup, 7 received the Holy Spirit, and thanksgiving offering of 1,040,961 Japanese yen.

3. Student Spiritual Convocation

The fourteenth student spiritual convocation was held at Tokyo church from 8/13 (Sat) – 18 (Thurs). Senior (college and high school) speakers were Preacher Ching-Jen Hu with Matthew as the main topic. Junior (junior high/middle school) speaker was Preacher Da-Tang Zhen and Preacher Wei-Chin Weng, with Genesis as the main topic.



Participating students were from Tokyo and Osaka churches and prayer houses; 37 students and 11 counselors. Five people were baptized and 60 people received the cup during Holy Communion.

IV. Seminars, Spiritual Cultivation, Activities, and Meetings

Religious Education Training Seminars continued last year's topic: Five Basic Beliefs. Other seminars such as Council Member Seminar, Holy Worker Spiritual Cultivation, Sermon Speaker/Interpreter Seminar, Marriage Fellowship, etc., were held according to schedule.

As of the end of last year, the Executive Council Meeting of Japan Coordination Board had 8 meetings. The Regulation Committee had 3 meetings. The National Church Conference had 3 meetings. Youths had fellowship once at Chiba church, and once outdoors at Midori Ward Aone Holiday Village with positive results.



Indoor fellowship of Tokyo region youths at Chiba Church

A Bible seminar for Holy Workers is held every Monday evening from 7:00-9:00 at Sumida church, led by resident Preacher Ching-Jen Hu. Preacher Daniel Chin used “Viewing Church Crisis through the Book of Acts” as the topic for five weeks of encouragement during his short-term stay. Elder Ying-Fu Lai used the book “Be Fishers of Men” as instruction material for the seven evangelical classes held during his short-term stay.



2016 National Church Conference

A hymnal fellowship was held on 11/27 (Sun) with Rain Choir of Nanao Church as the visiting choir. On 12/11 (Sun), the Coordination Board held important meetings and a National Church Conference.

V. Literary

1. Issues the IA newsletter four times a year as scheduled.
2. The Doctrines of the Holy Spirit.
Publishes Japanese version of “The Doctrines of the Holy Spirit”
3. Printed 500 copies of Japanese Hymnbook.
4. Unified using the Japanese and Chinese versions of the Bible.

VI. Plans to Purchase New Chapels

1. Kasai prayer house currently does not have a chapel and is in dire need of a fixed location to hold services.
2. Sumida and Yokohama chapels are running out of space due to increase of membership.
3. Kawaguchi prayer house is planning to branch out; therefore, it needs to purchase a new chapel.

VII. The Focus of Future Efforts of Holy Work Being Promoted

Japanese region churches’ Holy Work development can be categorized into several few focus points:

1. Rooted foundation of truth in the Bible.
2. Practicing a life of prayer and family altar.
3. Strengthening the organizational functions of the church.
4. Training and encouraging youths to become aware of a sense of mission and apply for theological school.
5. Train pastoral and evangelical personnel in the church.
6. Re-evaluate the strategy of spreading the Gospel in the Japanese region.

Conclusion

The Lord Jesus said before His ascension: “But 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” (Act 1:8). God said through the prophet Isaiah: “Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings. Do not spare; lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the

left, and your descendants will inherit the nations, and make the desolate cities inhabited.” The promise of the Bible is very clear and the Lord Jesus also said: “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come” (Mt 24:14).

Reflecting back to the work of the Gospel in the Japanese region is as if it were held in captivity for seventy years. God is beginning to prosper and shine light now so that His people will return in prosperity. What are we, the people of the Japanese region, waiting for? Has God not given us enough grace? Come, let us rebuild God’s church together, that we may courageously preach the Gospel of Salvation together.

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Intercession

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
12/21-12/27	Malaysia	Theological Training Course (Adult Class)	SD Li
12/8-12/19		Short Term Theological Training Course (Malay Class)	Yosua Gusti
12/4-12/16	Korea	Preachers' Spiritual Nurture	HH Ko
12/5-1/2/2017	Singapore	Year-End Spiritual Meeting & Evangelic Event Students' Theological Training Course Students' Theological Training Course (Graduates Camp)	HY Yao
12/25-1/15	Australia	Short Term Theological Training Course & National Working Youths Seminar (Brisbane)	Joel Chong Peter Shee
12/9-12/11	HK	Holy Worker Seminar & All Churches meeting	Fuming Tse ER Tseng
Dec.	Myanmar	Year-end Spiritual Meeting	Amos Chow
12/23-1/2/2017	Kampuchea	Pastoral	John Lam SM Pan
Dec.	Tonga	Pastoral Visit	Auckland Church
12/17-24	Canada	Winter SSC (Vancouver)	Wen Chuan Yeh
12/25-30		Winter SSC (Toronto)	Raymond Chou

12/9-12/11	Brazil	Pastoral Work & CSACC Meeting	D. Liang
12/26-2017/1/1	Germany	European Bible Seminar(Heidelberg)	HH Ko S. Hwang
12/21-12/26	Italy	Spiritual Convocation (Empoli)	S. Hwang Bao Qin Wang
12/1-12/22	East Africa	Pastoral Ministry/Student Convocation (Zambia)	Steven Shek Raymond Leacock

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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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