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## *Feature*

### The Power from Above

Nathaniel Chin

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” (Lk 24:49)

What must come from above in today’s work of servitude?

#### The Power to Overcome Satan

When you are in a constant state of victory, it does not mean failure does not exist. In fact, Satan is hidden underneath the details, waiting to devour us.

When faced with decisions, man often uses the information at hand and self-judgment to make decisions. However, in the eyes of God, this kind of man is lacking in many ways. What God is looking for is whether one is willing to obey.

The decisions that are out of men’s expectations usually come with many contradictions; the

Israelites were no exceptions. They had fallen into a dilemma. On one hand, they needed to destroy the Canaanites, and on the other hand, they had made their oath. Either way, the most important thing is to pray for the strength from above, which is to ask for God's will and not become their own decision-makers. Through prayer and meditating upon the words in the Bible, we will receive the power from above and be able to gradually find the directions God has given to us.

### **The Power of Performing Miracles**

Through the miracle of "five loaves and two fish", Jesus put to test the livelihood of the people and used it to teach His disciples (Jn 6:5-6). Even though Jesus knew that the disciples were not able to solve this issue, He still entrusted them with the problem to see how they will resolve it. Through this, the miracle was performed to everyone through the child's food, to reveal the deficiency of the disciples.

Indeed, we also lament over the fact that faith is declining from generation to generation. The first generation believers experienced the grace from God with a deep root. They were able to grab on to God's coat tails because they all personally experienced the blessings from God. The second generation may have experienced it as well as hearing from their parents' verbal experiences. Therefore, they used it to continuously teach their children. The third generation was baptized as children and received complete Religious Education. However, they lack experience. Relying on the classes they attend two hours a week during Religious Education is merely not enough.

Being able to partake in God's Salvation and become His helper in spreading the Gospel is such a glorious and wonderful thing. We pray for the strength rewarded to us from above so that through Him the miracles of five loaves and two fish will be revealed. Otherwise, even if the Lord wants us, we will not be able to help.

### **The Strength to Deliver Sermons**

Delivering a sermon is not through persuasion with eloquence, nor through words of euphemism, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. The power of quenching the thirst of our souls so that the members who are weak in spirit may be revived is from the speaker who constantly seeks from the source that comes from the power above. The spiritual food that Christians need is, first, being able to have a steady foot in the society and, second, knowing

the truth. In reality, believers do not need empty theories, but a careful analysis of the problem. In terms of truth, members need explanations from the Bible or guidance to preach to the gentiles.

### **The Strength of Preaching the Gospel**

In today's church, it is harder to find those who hold a strong determination to preach the Gospel. Even though everyone still attends service and church activities, the desire to preach the Gospel is lacking.

Getting to the bottom of things, believers who are not confident of their faith come from not understanding the truth in depth, as well as misbehaviors that prevent them to admit believing in Jesus. They are afraid that they will degrade the image of Christ.

The religious freedom in today's age teaches everyone to respect each other. We must be proud of being a Christian even more. We must value the importance of our honorable status as children of God and ask for the strength from above so that we can live out Christ to testify for Jesus. In this way, we will become the salt and the light in each of our corners; whether it be at home, school, or work. We must be able to live out the examples to testify for Christ and preach His name.

Finally, the mission given by the Lord is not only to save more souls, but to also allow us to receive edification.

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### *Church News*

## **News Report on the Current Situation in India**

### **Statistics**

1. Number of Churches - 14 Churches; 3 Prayer House; 4 Places of Worship
2. Number of Believers - 1383
3. Number of Ministers - 10 Deacons, 4 Deaconesses; 5 Preachers
4. Number of REU students - about 476 (with 46 Teachers)

### **Organization**

India Coordination Board remains weak. Organization is managed by men. Here in India we lack committed & spiritual leaders that the churches are able to look up to. Although efforts are put into development of these leaders through trainings and seminars but leaders are not developed intellectually. It is the spirit in a person that counts. Stronger and more developed churches are not able to receive assistance from ICB. Further these leaders are not exemplary that the churches can look up to. Only weaker and newly established churches look up to ICB for assistance and advise.

### **Pastoral & Evangelical**

Pastoral & evangelical works were carried out by the local churches with support from ICB. 50 were baptized for the year 2015-16 (3.8%) [30 were adults and 20 were infants / children]. Although their plans and system may not seem to be good but they are not lacking in the spirit. Visiting & concern for its members are what the churches have been doing. This especially came forward during the disastrous flood that happens in Chennai at the end of 2015. We see members coming together to support those who are in need. Even though our preachers are having a low living allowance, yet during the flood our preachers decided to offer one month allowance to assist our members affected by the flood. Evangelism is in the heart of the church and its members. It is just part of their life to testify of Christ.

### **Youths & Educational Affairs**

We have been spending a lot of efforts in the development of children and youths for the past 20 years with a hope that we will have a local generation of capable and spiritual members who will be able to take over the responsibility of the ministry in India. We must say that we still cannot see this coming soon. But we thank God, we are able to set up a system and pass on some of the development work to the local churches.

### **Training**

Training remains the main aspect of our work in India. We have said earlier that we have literally let our members in India know how they are to grow up spiritually & to prepare themselves for the work ahead. But knowledge itself does not seem to change their spirit and heart. We have to review this & look into correcting our flaws. Recently, we are posting our senior ministers to India to lead them in the work. In addition to giving lectures, we need to lead them and show them by example.

### **Financial**

Though some local churches are able to be financially self-sufficient but their support to ICB is

weak. Most look into their own needs above that of ICB. But we must say they have spent their finances in divine work as well. Time will tell. We hope after the local churches have settled their own needs, they will give strong support to ICB. At the meantime, we need to support them and help them to manage their finances.

This year, India Coordination Board is responsible for 100% of the Training Center maintenance cost, 50% of STTC Training expanses & 40% of the preachers' and full time workers living allowance.

We have revised the long-due living allowances of our workers in India (their salary is still under the poverty category of the India Government salary scale).

### **Pioneering Work in North India**

We have been visiting NE India for some time. Prospects changed from time to time. We have identified that this is because we do not have a worship point & resident leaders. Our infrequent visit added to the problem as well.

There are some who are moved by the Holy Spirit but yet to be baptized.

### ***West Bengal***

In Kolkata, evangelism is carried out with a Bengali family and we are continuing contact with the Chinese community at the China-Town. We are extensively utilizing the assistance of volunteer workers for the work in these pioneering areas.

We are continuing with our work among the individual pastors in the Darjeeling District. Some are receptive. Presently our work is focus in the towns of Bagdogra and Mirik.

### ***Imphal, Manipur***

Contact with Ps. Alexander started 6 years ago. He and his family may be baptized next year.

We have some members from the south who have moved to Delhi & Bombay. We hope to be able to organize ourselves to look into pioneering into these areas as well.

### **Sri Lanka**

Missionary visit was carried out by ICB personnel Dn. Mark Sunder and Pr. Andrew Nickelson from 25th Feb to 5th Feb (till date, this is the fourth visit to Sri Lanka). Pastoral and evangelical work carried out in Jaffna and Colombo.



India Preachers and wife Spiritual Nurture and Fellowship



Ordination of Bro. Thomas Selvakumar from Bangalore Church as Dn. Matthew

## West Malaysia General Assembly 69<sup>th</sup> National Church Conference Report

West Malaysia GA

With the changing of seasons and passing of another year, it is again time to reflect on the progress of holy work and plan for the coming new year. The West Malaysia General Assembly held its 69<sup>th</sup> National Church Conference on November 27, 2016. This conference welcomed the newly established system of first re-election; having re-elected one new group of council members to oversee holy work over the following three years. May God continue to watch over the continual establishment of the great cause of God's kingdom.

Chairman Eld. Joshua Phoong mentioned in his speech that the planning process for this new regulation began ten years ago. Over these ten years, a group of soldiers were cultivated for God's work to become church's leaders, take up the work, oversee the church, and to ensure the church can maintain a stable growth. He thanked God that this group of workers has grown up in spiritual stature, has accumulated experiences of power and are filled with zeal and passion to give for the Lord. The baton having been passed on, and the plow in their hands, he firmly believes this new group of workers will have the power to carry out the work according to God's will with a gentle and humble attitude. At the same time they are to constantly remind themselves to "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (Romans 12:3), and they are to be able overcome the weakness of human nature – showing off one's own achievements before men.



*Chairman's encouragement*

The elder also did not forget to remind the workers to not act recklessly; i.e., to delight in others' praise, or to let pride immerse into their service because when workers ask for others' respect, submission, and recognition of one's one achievements, it is also the time when they may easily stumble and fall short of God's glory. On the contrary, workers must at all times examine themselves. They must never to quench the movement of the Holy Spirit and are always to be willing to receive other's public rebuke. Remember, workers are only servants of God, useless vessels entrusted to serve God and men, not to be served by humans or worshiped. Each according to their own gifts is to fulfil their roles. Every work is different; however, under the guidance of the same Spirit, the purpose is to build up the body of Christ the Church.

Lastly, the chairman encouraged the workers to not regard the work of God's kingdom as only surely to be filled with hardships, but, to abide by their given gifts and talents to fulfil what has been entrusted by the master. Workers must be proactive, not needing the urging of other. They must be able to pursue and walk with the Lord diligently until the day the commission has been fulfilled.



*Church delegates focused during the meeting*

2017-2019 West Malaysia GA Council Member List:

Chairman: Pr. Ezekiel Chong

General Affairs: Dn. Nathanael Ko

Financial Affairs: Eld. Andrew Tee

Pastoral Affairs: Dn. Isaiah Chang

Evangelical Affairs: Pr. Hosea Ho

Training: Pr. Daniel Chin

Youth Affairs: Dn. Thomas Tee

Education Affairs: Dn. Aaron Tan

Literary Affairs: Dn. Jeremiah Chang

North Region: Dn. Jonah Tan

Perak Region: Pr. Amos Chow

Central Region Coordinator: Dn. Isaac Lee

South Region: Pr. Habakkuk Hsu

Auditor: Bro. Cheng Yam Tan, Dn. Barnabas Chung

Note: New regulations will take effect starting in 2017. GA council members have three years per term; at most three consecutive terms for a total of nine years.



*Retiring Council Members*

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### *Intercession*

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
1/15-1/23	Australia	Divine Workers' Training/ Visiting/ Home Service	Peter Shee
Jan. – Feb.	New Zealand	Pastoral Work/Divine Workers' Seminar	Y F Lai
1/5-1/23	Philippines	PMCC Pastoral Visiting(Luzon)	Pr Zacchaeus Yong
1/7-1/8		Spiritual Convocation(Tukuran)	Dn Philip & Bro Dennis
1/14-1/15		PGA EXCO Meeting(Mansilingan)	John Vun
1/22		Northern Region Divine Workers	

		Seminar(Manila)	
1/9-2/6	US	E-Learning Project	HH Ko
12/30/16-1/4/17	Canada	Student Spiritual Convocation-E2, J1, J2 (Toronto)	Samuel Kuo
1/7-1/29	Argentina	Short-Term Theological Class	Enoch Hou CM Chu
		Spiritual Convocation & Evangelical Services	
1/1-1/6	UK	Africa Ministry Training Course(London Church)	HH Ko D. Liang
1/5		AMC Meeting(London Church)	Africa ministry Workers
1/7	France	Special Service	D. Liang
Jan. - Apr.	Germany	Training of Devine Worker	HH Ko
1/4-1/14	Spain	Barcelona/Madrid/Albacete	S. Hwang
1/1-1/3	Greece	Spiritual Convocation(Athens)	S. Hwang
12/29/16-1/15/17	Russia	Pastoral Visitation/Spiritual Convocation	Ezra Chong
12/27/16-1/22/17	South Africa	Pastoral ministry / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation	Luke Chan MinHsiung Chang
		Pastoral Visit PE / Cape Town Spiritual Convocation	
1/9-1/23		Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation/Workers Training/Cape Town Spiritual Convocation	Derren Liang
1/4-2/5	West Africa	Pastoral Ministry/Training(Ghana,Togo,Sierra Leone)	Timothy Yeung
1/20-2/1	Benin	Pastoral Work	Stephane Pelard

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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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