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Feature

100 Years-A Heritage of Spirituality and Grace

Fuming Tse

On the occasion of the hundred anniversary of True Jesus Church's missionary and the fiftieth anniversary of the International Assembly of the True Jesus Church, the theme "100 Years-A Heritage of Spirituality and Grace, was selected during the 24th Meeting of the 11th IA Standing Committee as for the goal of the 12th World Delegates. Through this theme and goal, we will remember God's grace and continue the ministry with God's abidance.

The true church, set up by the Holy Spirit, is to revive the Apostolic Church by the spirit of independence, self-sustaining, and self-propagation, through the evidence of the Holy Spirit, the truth, and miracles, according to God's will, for completing the mission at the end time.

In 1917, the Holy Spirit established the true church in Beijing, China, and the gospel was spread to Taiwan from Fujian in 1926, to Malaysia and other countries in Asia in 1927, and to Honolulu and North, Central, and South Americas and other regions starting in 1931. In 1976, a true church was established in UK, and the truth was spread throughout Europe. In 1978, the truth was introduced to Australia and New Zealand, respectively. In 1980 and 1988, the seeds of the Gospel were spread quickly to the five continents all over the world.

The International Assembly of the True Jesus Church (I.A.) was established in Taiwan in 1967 and in the United States in 1985. In 1989, I.A. was registered in the United States. In order to promote the mutual assistance and unity of the churches in various countries and for wide spreading the gospel to all parts of the world, all General Assemblies, Coordination Boards and IA-directed churches have been working together to expand the ministry, prosper the Gospel, and establish the churches for many years, not only in the pioneering areas, but also further develop church ministry.

The Holy Spirit works in the true church. Let us meditate upon the good examples of our elderly workers who left many good testimonies, wonderful footprints, and pure modes of faith, as the Bible says, “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.”

On the occasion of the 100 year anniversary of spiritual grace, we should continue in the faith, be stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel (Col 1:23). Be rooted and built up in Christ and established in the faith. So we will be able to pass on the faith, pass on the truth, pass on the servitude, pass on the mission, and pass on the spirit of the true church. As Paul said, “But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. To this He called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter” (2 Thess 2:13-15).

By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Lord worked with the true church and confirmed the message by accompanying signs. So this Gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world and the great mission which has been entrusted by the Lord Jesus to us will be completed. Therefore, we can no longer take it lightly. Instead of looking into heaven, we, with commission and responsibility, should stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the Gospel (Phil 1:5-6, 27). Let us review the past, move forward to the future, and press on toward the goal.

Do not leave blanks; instead, carry out liveliness in our lives. Not showing up empty-handed before the Lord, but with richness enter into the eternal kingdom of our Lord. We should always be sober, keep praying, preach the gospel, establish the church, glorify God’s name, and be ready for the second coming of the Lord.

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Updates on Sabah Holy Work

Gamaliel Wei

Sabah GA completed the planned holy work under the guidance of the Lord Jesus during the second half of 2016 until year end. The experience of God's abundant grace and wonderful guidance will be described in a journal format in the report below.

Update Church Status of Sabah

In response to the statewide congregational meeting, the Sabah GA Administrative Department submitted a report based on data provided by churches statewide. There are 108 churches and prayer houses, 17,275 believers (16,976 in 2015), 10 elders, 26 preachers, 2 retired ministers, 152 deacons, and 8 theological training students.

Statewide Preachers' Seminar

On November 9 – November 17, 2016, the second part of preacher's seminar was held in the Sabah GA conference room. Elder Ming-Zheng Wu from Taiwan GA was the main speaker of this cultivation seminar. Elder Wu shared the topics "Historic Theology – History of the Doctrine," and "Truth of the Ark of the Covenant." All the preachers were greatly edified.

Statewide Ministers Workshop



Thank the Lord, the 2016 statewide ministers workshop was held at the Sabah GA conference room from November 19 – November 20. A total of 137 holy workers attended the two day

seminar. After the conclusion of the seminar, holy workers continued to have a holy worker cultivation seminar led by Preacher James Yapp. The topic was “Christian Ethics,” with discussions of pastoral classes to improve on the duties of being a good shepherd under the circumstances of having to cope with the complex issues of diversity in the society, seeking social interests of diversification, and the driving of social contradictions and diversifications. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, all the workers reached a consensus to continue fighting for the sake of pastoring the Lord’s sheep.

Writers’ Training of Literary Ministry Department

The Literary Ministry Department Worker’s Training was held at Kolombong Church on December 4, 2016. Thank the Lord, Pr. Ying Chu Lee from Taiwan GA’s Theological Seminary was assigned for this event. He shared “The Understanding and Acting of Spiritual Literature” for mutual encouragement. Articles were written through the usage of words to record the innermost thoughts and feelings and express a systematic concept so that it can be passed on for generations. Words can elaborate on history and record our experience in faith. This proves that language and words were meant to fit well together. The relationship can be compared to the offense and defense unit of a football team, one cannot work without the other. Through words, we must improve on the work of literary ministry and have the sense of mission to keep the truth. We must put the task of maintaining our homes as priority.

Family Day for Literary Ministry Department

Sabah GA Literary Ministry Department held the Family Day event on December 10 – 12 at Gunda Church, 25 people attended. The topic this time was “Pay Attention to Family Construction and Promote Friendship in Literary Ministry.” This allowed us to see the cohesion between the families of workers and a harmonious unity. Workers need to improve on cooperation and have a central policy that puts family as the center. This is a very important method to boosting the development of literary ministry. This event put the editing workers at ease from the stress they normally encounter through the detailed attention of grammar and words in their daily work. Gunda Church showed great hospitality and organized great activities that everyone enjoyed. Everyone agreed to meet again next year at the literary ministry department family day, before going back to the real world.

Students Theological Training Course

This year’s Theological Students Training Course was held simultaneously in Kota Kinabalu Church (First and Third Year), Penampang Church (Second Year), and Keningau Church

Training Center for the first time (Inland First Year) from November 28 to December 18. Thank the Lord, there were 494 students who attended. Most students had already the Holy Spirit, there were also 35 students who had the mercy of receiving the Holy Spirit this time. The classes were completed through the guidance of the Lord Jesus, with the love and offering of each church. Glory be to the holy name of the Lord!

42th National Church Delegates Conference

Thank the Lord! The annual National Church Delegates Conference was held on December 24-25 at the conference room of GA. 91 attended, including delegates and observers. Everyone discussed major events in the house of God as well as evaluating the holy work during the year. The responsibility to preach and pastor that the Lord entrusted every one of us was imprinted clearly in each delegate's heart.



May this conference bring more unity among everyone so that each will serve at his respective job in a humble and submissive attitude and that we use our hearts to serve our Lord. May all the glory and praise be unto our Father God in heaven! Amen!

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Work Report for South Africa

There are two churches in South Africa. Johannesburg church was converted from a house purchased in Bedfordview in 1998, which later became a service gathering place and church. Cape Town church, dedicated on January 25, 2015, was converted from a house purchased in early 2014, which later became a chapel. Besides the Johannesburg and Cape Town churches, there are two gathering places in Port Elizabeth and Welkom, and places for family services in other regions. There were initially fixed Sabbath services in Lesotho; however, because most believers moved to South Africa, the region now lacks leadership, so services are only held when visiting workers are there.

Our South African believers spread throughout different provinces, from the northern province of Limpopo to the southern tip of Cape Town. South Africa is divided into nine provinces, plus “a country within a country,” Lesotho, totalling ten regions where our South African believers are distributed. The distribution is as follows: Gauteng province has about 210 believers, Western Cape about 150 believers, Eastern Cape about 75 believers, Northern Cape about 25 believers, Free State about 70 believers, Limpopo about 75 believers, North West about 53 believers, Kwazulu Natal about 60 believers, Mpumalanga about 70 believers and Lesotho about 5 believers. It is estimated that the number of believers in South Africa is close to 800, all Chinese.



Summer Spiritual Convocation in Johannesburg, South Africa on Jan 17, 2016

The Johannesburg church holds spiritual convocation regularly in January (summer) and July (winter) of every year. Each time the number of participants is about 170 to 190. The Cape Town church also holds a spiritual convocation in January each year, with a total attendance of about 70 to 90 people.



Summer Spiritual Convocation in Cape Town, South Africa on Jan 23-24, 2016

In addition to the regular spiritual convocations, during the pastoral visits of International Assembly workers or work group members, they hold training sessions for holy work and seminars to cultivate leading workers and sermon leaders in the hope that they may take on local pastoral work. The pastoral workers arranged in 2016 were as follows:

Date	Worker	Work Content
December 30 – March 10	Min Hsiung Chang	Pastoral Ministry / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation / Pastoral Visit PE / Cape Town Spiritual Convocation
January 11 – 25	Derren Liang	Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation / Pastoral Visit PE Cape Town Spiritual Convocation
December 30 – February 21	Luke Chan	Pastoral Ministry / Training / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation Cape Town Spiritual Convocation
April 28 – June 4	Luke Chan	Pastoral Ministry / Training / Lesotho Outreach
June 23 – September 8	Min Hsiung Chang	Pastoral Ministry / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation / Lesotho Outreach
July 1 – 25	Steve Hwang	Pastoral Ministry / Training / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation

July 12 – August 14	Luke Chan	Pastoral ministry / Training / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation
September 28 – November 6	Luke Chan	Pastoral Ministry / Training

A total of 19 people received baptism during the two spiritual convocations at the Johannesburg church and many received the Holy Spirit. 170 members partook the cup in the Holy Communion held during the two-day spiritual convocation on January 16 and 17, while 189 members partook the cup during the two-day spiritual convocation on July 16 and 17. 82 members partook the cup during the two-day spiritual convocation on January 23 and 24 in Cape Town and 7 people received baptism. The total number of those baptized in the churches in South Africa was 26.



Winter Spiritual Convocation in Johannesburg, South Africa on July 17, 2016

For many years, we have focused on the Chinese community in preaching the gospel in South Africa. Thank the grace of the Lord Jesus, starting from this year, the evangelical effort has expanded to the locals. Some members have also invited employees at their stores to attend the spiritual convocations. Currently, there are local truthseekers in Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Lesotho. May the Lord Jesus open a way so that they can understand the truth and receive salvation as soon as possible so that the gospel can spread out in South Africa through the locals for more to receive salvation.

As a result of the long-term stable development of the churches, in 2016, the South African churches appointed a local brother as a full-time volunteer, hoping that he would take up the pastoral work in South Africa in the future. Currently, he has been involved in assisting some pastoral work. For the future development of holy work, a plan is in place for him to return to his home country every year to go through training for six month for the coming three years. We hope that he will be able to take up the holy work in South Africa in the future.

Safety in South Africa has become increasingly strained. In recent years, the renewal of work visas has become difficult with the decline of the economy. Some believers have returned to China or relocated to other countries. Please pray for the brethren in South Africa and for the church, so that the believers can lead a stable life amidst instability and that the churches may continue to develop under God's watch. May all glory be unto the true God in heaven. Amen!

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Intercession

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
2/10-3/10	Japan	Church's Pastoral Work	YJ Lin
2/9 – 2/20	India	Residential Pastoral	Ezra Chong
2/20 - 3/6		Pioneering in North-East India	Ezra Chong & Titus Loo & Volunteers
2/12-2/19	Philippines	Divine Workers Seminar (Napolan)	Malachi Lee
2/25-2/26		Spiritual Convocation (Tukuran)	Pr. James & Bro. Jarry
2/6-3/6	Argentina	Pastoral Visitation/ Bible Seminar/ Divine Workers Training	FM Tse
2/10-3/1	Brazil	Pastoral Visitation & Spiritual Convocation	Wen Chuan Yeh
2/1-2/9	FOZ	Pastoral Work	Wen Chuan Yeh
2/1-2/14	Ecuador	Pastoral Work	CH Chou
2/13-2/16	UK	National Adult Theological Seminar (New Castle)	S. Hwang
2/4-2/5	France	RE Training	Steven Shek

2/9-3/8	West Africa	Workers Training (Nigeria)	JR Chen
Feb.	Mauritania	Pastoral Visitations	Johnny Liu Silas Chen

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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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