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Feature

Emulate Paul's Mindset Towards Evangelism

Shawn Chou

100 Years – A Heritage of Spirituality and Grace: This year marks the one hundredth year of the ministry of True Jesus Church. When we reflect on how God has guided us through the past one hundred years, besides being overwhelmed with thanksgiving, we pray for God to compel our heart to emulate Paul's mindset in his ministry so that the precious gospel of salvation may be preached to more who may believe and that the boundary of God's kingdom will continue to expand.

“Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:13-16).

From the above passage, we can learn the following mindset of Paul:

1. A mindset to obtain fruits:

Although Paul had not arrived at Rome at the time, his heart to save souls had gone before him to Rome. In other words, he did not set out only to preach the gospel in Rome, but to harvest fruits. Today, most of us only bear the mindset to spread the seeds of the gospel and become indifferent to whether anyone is saved or whether we make any harvest. It is God who chooses – such belief encourages us not to lose heart in evangelizing, but also robs us of the ambition to “catch men.” We should ask the Lord to grant us the same determination that Paul had to obtain fruits and to seize hold of every opportunity.

2. A mindset of indebtedness:

Paul believed that if he did not preach the gospel to someone, he would be indebted to that person. This shows that Paul had an immensely strong sense of responsibility to preach the gospel. Our debt of sin was repaid in full by the Lord Jesus. However, do we still feel the weight of the debt of gospel we owe? Isn't it because we have not fulfilled our responsibility that our relatives and good friends have not yet believed in the Lord? If our local church has no strength in evangelizing, and there are often no truthseekers and few people to receive baptism at Spiritual Convocation, do we not feel responsible for it? Paul used a sense of indebtedness to describe how he felt if he did not preach the gospel. This is exactly what we need today, so that each one of us can bear a zealous heart in the work of evangelism.

3. A mindset to do his best:

Paul's principle in his ministry was to give all he had. When Paul arrived in Athens to wait for Silas and Timothy, he was distressed when he saw the city full of idols. Therefore, he reasoned in the synagogue as well as in the marketplace regarding the teachings of the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 17:16-34). Even though he was alone at the time and new to the region, he did not wait for Silas and Timothy before starting to preach. He was willing to give his best, with a one-man strength, to preach. Today, in evangelizing, we should also be willing to give our best. We do not need to wait until we feel ready or for a companion before we start preaching. We should preach whenever we can and as opportunity comes. Our strength to preach will grow stronger. If we always feel like we are not ready to evangelize and shy away from preaching the gospel, we may not be able to bring even one person to believe in the Lord during our lifetime.

4. The mindset which believes that the gospel is the mighty power of God:

Paul deeply believed that “the gospel is the mighty power of God.” He believed that the gospel itself has strong power to transform a person anew and that it was not by his own might that a soul could be saved – this was his faith in the gospel. During his three trips from Asia Minor to Europe, he established many churches—not by his own strength, eloquence or wisdom—but by believing that the gospel itself is mightily powerful and by not being ashamed of the gospel. Today, True Jesus Church preaches the same complete gospel as Paul preached. If we believe deeply in the complete gospel and rely on its mighty power, we can gain strength upon strength in our evangelical work.

Paul not only had a thorough understanding of the truth of salvation, but also had the mindset towards evangelism for all of us to emulate. From the moment when the Lord chose him to his death, he gave everything he had to complete what the Lord had entrusted to him. As he said, “I have fought the good fight” (2 Timothy 4:7). In the same way, if we only understand the truth of salvation, but we do not have a zealous heart to evangelize, we fall short of the grace through which God has called us. May all of us encourage one another and emulate the wonderful mindset of Paul.

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Church News

100 Years—A Heritage of Spirituality and Grace for True Jesus Church

Indonesia General Assembly

The year 2017 is the one hundredth anniversary of True Jesus Church. In 1917, True Jesus Church was established in Beijing, China. It then began preaching the gospel to all parts of China, then to Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Sabah, Hong Kong, the United States, India, Indonesia, and Japan, etc. To date, it has preached to five continents and sixty countries. The characteristics of True Jesus Church is that it has the Holy Spirit, Truth, and Miracles.

The truth was preached into Indonesia in 1939. The first True Jesus Church was there established in Jakarta in 1941. Through the guidance of miracles and Holy Spirit, Indonesia currently has 37 churches and prayer houses, 28 preachers, 70 ministers, 7525 members, and 7

Canaan Christ Schools with 4561 students. In remembrance of the centennial of True Jesus Church, Indonesia GA will publish the Indonesian version of “True Jesus Church History Handouts,” compiled by Chia Cheng Cheng. Videos of Indonesia church history have also been produced. Testimony fliers are published to spread the power and grace of God. Personal evangelism training is also being improved. Each local church has held spiritual convocations, evangelical services, and hymnal evangelical services in order to have more people know Jesus and become saved. In addition, there have been community care activities such as free health and medical checks, blood donation, visiting senior care centers, orphanages, and children on the streets, or providing of food and daily necessity products to the poor, etc.



Free Medical Checks



Blood Donation



Visit Orphanages

In order to have all members give thanksgiving to the grace and love from the Lord to our church, the G.A. plans to hold “True Jesus Church Centennial Thanksgiving Service” this year in each region. Central Java region will be held in Garuda Church on August 6; West Java region will be held in Gereja Injili Church on August 13; Indonesia East Region will be held in Santika Premier Hotel on August 20, and Kalimantan region will be held in Banjarmasin Church on August 27. I.A. Chairman, Elder Fu-Ming Tse will use the topics Heritage of Faith, Heritage of Truth, Heritage of Mission, Heritage of Servitude, and The Spirit of Heritage as encouragements.

The last service was the national Centennial Thanksgiving Service on September 3, 2017 at Jakarta Kemayoran Exhibition Center. All elders, preachers, deacons, and members attended the service with thanksgiving and joy. Indonesia G.A. Chairman Preacher Misali Liao talked about the start of True Jesus Church being through God's promise of the latter rains. IA representative Elder En-Yuan Ho used Hebrews 8:1-2 to discuss The True Tabernacle. The highlight of the program is the introduction of the history of Indonesia churches. It shared how God guided and blessed Indonesia church and the Canaan School as a good field of the Gospel. Members from many locations came to join the service, wearing traditional clothing from each region while they presented. The program included Java region's traditional music and Gamelan's instrumental performance; Indonesia east region's Bali dance and song, performed by the young students of Canaan School; West Java region youth choir to elderly performing bamboo instruments. In this elderly bamboo orchestra, the oldest member is ninety-six years old. Although she was sitting in a wheel chair, she still praised God with bamboo instruments! Finally, Jakarta region performed "True Jesus Church" with the grand choir of 130 members. During this performance, there were 1333 participants who joined in unity and sang "True Jesus Church" and praising God. It was truly a touching experience. At the program's conclusion, pictures of Indonesia churches and maps were given to each church's representative.



Through technology, ten Indonesian churches, Australia members, as well as anyone, can view the service through YouTube. Souvenirs could also be purchased after the service is over at the location held.

May God not only guide the journey True Jesus Church has trod the past hundred years, but also continue to guide and bless True Jesus Church until the end.

European Churches Updates: The Long Run to Find a Chapel

Heidelberg House of Prayer

In the early 80s some TJC believers came to Heidelberg, Germany and began to keep the Sabbath, first in their own student dormitory, later in some family's apartment. After 12 years, in December 1992, the members had the chance to buy an own property. We were very thankful that now the church had its own place to keep the Sabbath and to store all the things belonging to the church. However, it was not possible to register this place for official church use and because it was only a 80 m² flat it became soon too small. Therefore, not long after, we began to search for a bigger and more official place. We began to save money. For another 12 years, we either didn't find a suitable place or didn't get the official permission for church use or we were lacking money.

In the meantime, the other two Prayer Houses in Germany, Rhineland and Hamburg, turned out to have even more urgent need to buy a church building. Therefore, we decided to stop our search and be ready to help if necessary. And indeed, we could support them with our church building fund. After both had their dedication ceremony in 2012 and 2015 we continued our search. It is remarkable that during all these years gathering so many people in that small flat the neighbors didn't complain.

Thank God, after having visited several properties we finally found a suitable one in June 2016. It meets most of the conditions we set. After we asked for God's guidance and His will, we decided in a General Meeting to buy that property – but only if we get the permission from the authorities to use it as a chapel. Before, this was always the most difficult step. So, we started a prayer session on a regular basis only for this purpose on Saturday morning. In December 2016, we applied with the respective building authorities and – amazingly and with God's grace – after 8 months we finally got the permission we applied for. This was out of our expectation because there are enough reasons for the authorities to reject our application. Although it took so long to get the permission, the property wasn't sold to someone else. After the congregation discussed in harmony about the contract conditions, we currently wait whether we may draft a contract which is acceptable for both parties because, of course, the seller wants to make as much profit as possible. This is where we are now after 20 years of searching, waiting and experiencing God's guidance.

Meanwhile the purchase price is about 533,000 €, the renovation costs are estimated with 200,000 €. Through God's help and His wonderful guidance, He already moved many members to help. Still lacking some, we believe that He will provide according to His will. We give everything into the hands of God. May His will be done and His name be glorified.

If you want to know more about the project please feel free to contact us: heidelberg@tjc.org.



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Intercession

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
11/15-12/18	Japan	Pastoral Work/Seminars	Jen-Guang Tsai
11/20-11/26	Malaysia	Short Term Theological Training Course (Chinese/English)	Silas Kong
		Short Term Theological Training Course (Malay)	Yesaya Simon
11/27-12/17	Sabah	Student Short-term Theological Training Course (Penampang/Kota Kinabalu)	Amos Chow
		Statewide Preachers' Wives Seminar	
11/17-11/26	New Zealand	Youths' Spiritual Convocation (Auckland/East Auckland)	Thomas Fung
11/7-11/18	India	Pioneering work in North East India (Kolkata, Darjeeling, Mirik, Bagdogra)	Ezra Chong

11/6		Northern Region Teachers Seminar (Manila)	Dn Zebedee Chong & Dn John Vun
11/18-11/19	Philippines	Spiritual Convocation (Eden)	Pr James, Dn Lucas & Dn Joseph
11/1-11/21	US	National Minister Workshop National Adult Theological Seminar	Fu-Ming Tse
11/1-11/6	Canada	Bible Seminar (Vancouver)	Ing-Chu Lee
11/1-11/17	Germany	USA-TTP Training/Pastoral Visit (Germany)	MY Chao
11/24-11/26		Training/Special Service (Hamburg)	TK Chin
11/3-11/5	Austria	Spiritual Convocation & Evangelical Service (Salzburg)	HH Ko
11/10-11/12		Spiritual Convocation & Evangelical Service (Vienna)	Michael Chan
11/17-11/21	Greece	Spiritual Convocation/Member Visit & Concern	MY Chao/HH Ko Bao Qin Wang
11/23-11/29	Argentina	Pastoral Work	S. Hwang
11/30-12/4	Chile	Spiritual Convocation	S. Hwang
November	Ecuador	Pastoral Work	MT Kuo
November	Bolivia	Evangelical & Pastoral/Training	CM Chu
11/17-11/27	Dominican Rep.	Evangelical Service/Spiritual Convocation	Samuel Kuo
11/23-12/24	East Africa	Student Spiritual Convocation/Training (Kenya)	Johnny Liu/Volunteer
11/29-12/10	Mid East-Dubai	Bible Seminar with Holy Communion & Spiritual Convocation	FF. Chong

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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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