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Feature

Reflections from Attending the Africa Missionary Training Courses

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The Africa Missionary Training Courses (AMTC) has 15 years of history. I attended for the first time.

In order to have the youths to serve in Africa, the early workers had the vision to set up the AMTC. The training courses are designed to gather youths together for an intensive training on the doctrines, to prepare them mentally for their service, and to provide them with hands-on experience to work in Africa. I observed the following fruits of the training courses:

1. Strengthening the workers' determination to serve

The Scripture says, "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Phil 2:13). Thank God for compelling the students from the training courses to serve in Africa. Many students who participated in the training saw the glory of God in Africa – an experience they had never encountered before. They further realize that beyond their comfortable living filled with abundant materials, there exists many other

sources of joy in life. In fact, life can be very simple. As a result, the determination to serve burns in their hearts even more brightly. Some students later enroll in theological seminars, while others actively participate in the work of the local churches. One sister who returned from the training courses has never missed a church service afterwards; even when it is snowing outside, it does not quench the fire in her heart. Later, she moved to a remote region in her country and pastored one or two households there.

2. Deepening the understanding of the doctrines of our church

Jesus said, “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39). The African ministry centers on explaining the doctrines. Therefore, the students must learn how to introduce the doctrines. The full-time workers in Africa often have to engage in discussion of the truth with others and as such they have accumulated extensive experience in explaining the doctrines. Many Scriptures appear to be simple, but they can become a sharp sword to aid the ministry. A youth of our church said that he has known we are the only true church since he was a child, because we have the truth, miracles, and the Holy Spirit. However, he never knew that Mark 16:15-18 already talks about the three characteristics of the true church. At the training courses, the instructors seemed to also provide a more detailed critique of the incomplete teachings in our church in the past.

3. Facilitating fellowship between the youths from Europe and US:

The Scripture says, “Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth” (Psalm 110:3). The number of students from US participating in the training courses in London seems to be increasing over the past years. Out of the 65 students this time, the youths outside of UK, from US, Canada, Taiwan, and Europe, took up half of the attendance. They gathered together with a willing heart and travelled to relatively undeveloped regions to learn from and share fellowship with each other; it was an experience to cherish. Prior to this, a match was made through the training courses where a brother from Canada and a sister from the UK announced their engagement. The model husband and wife from the Bible – Aquila and Priscilla – together wandered from place to place, evangelized to Apollos, received Paul into their house to make tents, and opened up their home to serve as the church. All the young brethren there had willing hearts to serve. If the Lord is willing, may He match more brothers and sisters with the same determination to serve so they may strive in one heart for the Kingdom of God.

During the training courses, the students were arranged to share their reflections from their African ministry experience. There were already near 10 students who travelled to Zambia, Ghana, Kenya, and Togo, etc., for evangelical and religious education training work. A female student once shared her experience in going to Zambia with a preacher and theological student – how they took the last bus; due to the road condition, the bus was not able to move forward, so all the passengers had to sleep on the bus. She further shared that how the three shared one bag of dry food, how they suffered from mosquito bites and were forced to close the windows due to heavy rain which caused them have difficulty to fall asleep throughout the entire night. After they finally arrived at their destination next day, they had to start teaching within half an hour. After I heard this, I was so moved. After her testimony, I asked her whether she would continue to volunteer. Volunteering means she had to purchase the plane ticket herself, spend time and her vacation days, and put in her effort to work in a tough environment. She answered without hesitation, “Yes.” Later I found out that it was already her second time in Africa.

Here at the training courses, I discovered that everyone’s heart is burning. I think it’s time that I make more trips to Africa.

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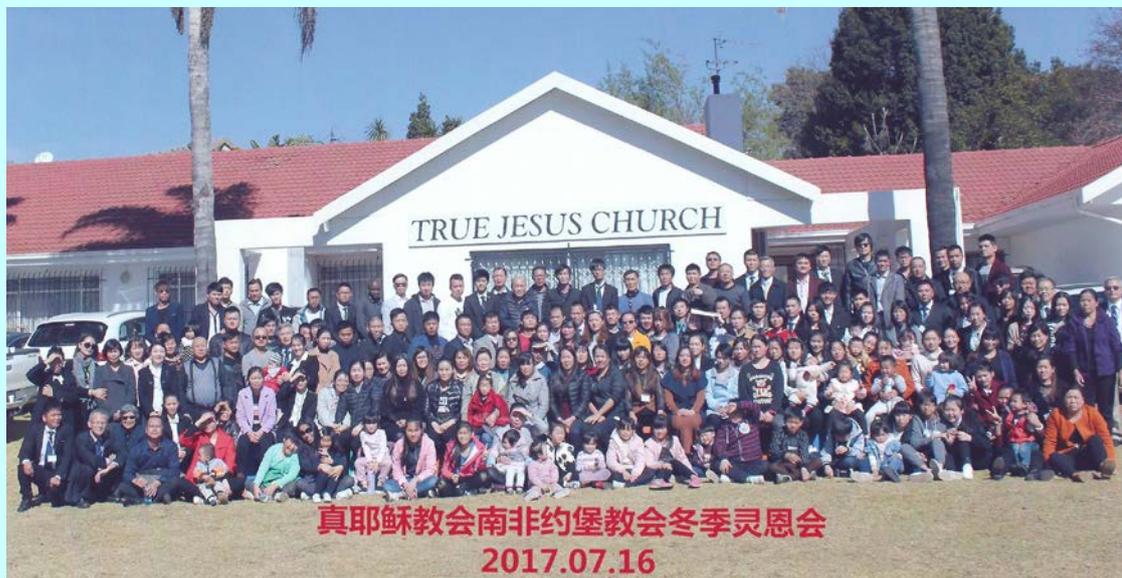
South Africa Work Report

South Africa Ministry Committee

There are about 700 TJC members, who reside in different provinces of South Africa, two churches – Johannesburg Church and Cape Town Church – and place of worship in Port Elizabeth and in Welkom. Other areas would hold family service only during the time when assigned worker is visiting. Although having hundreds of members in South Africa, they are scattered too far and wide, so not many can join Sabbath services. Approximately 50 to 60 members can join church service in Johannesburg Church and about 40 to 50 members in Cape Town Church. Each of the two places of worship has about 10-20 members joining church service.

Johannesburg Church regularly holds spiritual convocation, and did two times in 2017, summer (January) and winter (July). In January, Pr. Derren Liang, assigned by IA, and one of South Africa Ministry Committee members conducted the spiritual convocation. About 170-180 people attended this event; two were baptized, and 155 received the cup. In July, Pr. Steve

Hwang, assigned by IA, and one of South Africa Ministry Committee members conducted the spiritual convocation.



Winter Spiritual Convocation in Johannesburg Church on July 16, 2017

January 12-14, 2018, Johannesburg Church held a spiritual convocation, assisted by IA preacher Steve Hwang and the old and new members of South Africa Ministry Committee. 150 to 180 people joined this event, eight were baptized, and 180 received the cup.



A white man also received baptism during the Spiritual Convocation in Cape Town.

Cape Town Church held a spiritual convocation in January 2017, assisted by Pr. Derren Liang and one of the South Africa Ministry Committee members. About 60-70 people joined this event, five were baptized, and 59 received the cup. Thank God! There was a white native receiving baptism. He was acquainted with one of our believers. Our believer took him to the

church for a period of time. When our workers visited here, they preached to him about the truth of salvation. He accepted the truth with the fullness of joy. He was baptized in faith under the name of the Lord. After being baptized, he is very zealous in helping the church work and assisting believers in some difficult problems.

January 19-21, 2018, Cape Town Church also held a spiritual convocation, assisted by Pr. Steve Hwang and the old and new South Africa Ministry Committee members. About 50-90 people attended this event; nine were baptized and 87 received the cup.

Besides assisting the spiritual convocation and cultivating the leaders and the sermon speakers, IA workers also carried out the Church Board Seminar and some trainings in Johannesburg Church and Cape Town Church. The plan of workers' visitation in 2017 was as follows:

Date	Worker	Work Content
January 4 – March 8	Min Hsiung Chang	Pastoral ministry / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation/ Pastoral Visit PE / Cape Town Spiritual Convocation
January 9 – 23	Derren Liang	Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation / Training Cape Town Spiritual Convocation
December 28 – February 27	Luke Chan	Pastoral ministry/ Training/ Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation Cape Town Spiritual Convocation
March 22 – June 4	Luke Chan	Pastoral ministry / Training
June 21 – September 6	Min Hsiung Chang	Pastoral ministry / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation / Lesotho Outreach
July 1 – 17	Steve Hwang	Pastoral ministry / Training / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation
July 11 – August 14	Luke Chan	Pastoral ministry / Training / Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation
September 4 – December 4	Luke Chan	Pastoral ministry / Training

Our churches in South Africa employed a local brother as a full-time voluntary worker since 2006. He has been trained in China for two years, and it will be his last semester this year. We hope that after the training he can carry on the pastoral works in South Africa, so the church can continually and steadily grow for a long term.

In order to ensure that our churches in South African has new blood to inherit the holy works,

IA restructured the South African Ministry Committee in 2018 so that the old team and the new team members can cooperate to promote the works of South Africa.

In recent years, the security situation in South Africa has been deteriorating. Robbery and murder have been happening weekly. It is hard to keep safe there. The economy has dropped, which influences greatly the members who run businesses. Coupled with the difficulty in renewing their work permits and processing their visa applications, some of the believers closed their shops, some returned to China, and some migrated to other countries. So the membership dropped from 800 last year to about 700 this year. Please pray for the churches and the brethren in South Africa, so that our members can settle their lives in this unsafe environment and the churches can be kept by God. May all the glories be our God in heaven. Amen!

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Church News

Sabah Holy Work Status Update

Gamaliel Wai

Second half of 2017 Sabah GA Holy Work was completed smoothly through the guidance of the Lord Jesus. The report below will be written in the style of a journal to outline the on-going Holy Work.

Update the Status of Sabah Church

There are total of 106 churches and prayer houses, 17,735 members, 10 elders, 26 preachers, 3 retired preachers, 153 deacons, 4 literary ministry assistants, and 8 theological students (6 will be interning preachers in 2018).

Educational Visitation to Taiwan's Literary Ministry Department

A total of 19 holy workers and family members from the Sabah Literary Ministry Department joined on this trip. We visited Taiwan from November 25 to December 3. All our fatigue went away when seeing Elder Si-Hai Hsieh (Director of LM Department in Taiwan GA), Sister Su-Hua Lin (Chief Editor), Sister Lian Chu Lin (Layout Editor), Brother Feng-Lai Lin and his wife, and Brother Wen-Chung Chen and his wife saying "Hallelujah" upon our arrival. This greatly touched our hearts and may the Lord remember them!



Educational Visitation to Taiwan's Literary Ministry Department

This visitation's theme is "Let Literary Ministry lead Literary Ministry, and Talk about Literary Ministry with Literary Ministry." The normal routine of editing through strict grammatical rules finally got some insight and relaxation in this visit.

Students Short Term Theological Training

This training was held on November 26 to December 17 at Kota Kinabalu Church, Penampang Church, and Keningau Church training centers simultaneously. 541 students participated. Most students had the Holy Spirit, and 64, who the Lord shown mercy received the Holy Spirit. Thank the grace of the Lord!

43rd National Church Conference at Sabah Church

The meeting was held from December 23 to December 24 at the GA conference room. Total of 120 attended. All discussed the events of God's house and the rise and fall of Holy Work within this year in a harmonious manner. May this meeting allow us to become more unified, so we can work with humility and obedience! May we use our hearts to serve our Lord!

The 2018-2020 Executive Council Election was held after the meeting. The previous Chairman reminded the delegates to elect workers that can put their gifts to good use, hoping that they can become the head of the train to plan for the next three years. After prayer, 21 workers were elected: Pr. James Yapp, Pr. Nathanael Chin, Dn. James Vun, Pr. Lemuel Leong, Dn. Nahum Ng, Pr. Haggai Tang, Pr. Boaz Wong, Dn. Gamaliel Wei, Dn. Andrew Wong, Dn. Joel Thomas, Dn. Nicodemus Tham, Pr. Zakheus Yong, Dn. Cornelius Liau, Dn. Peter Pang, Pr. Thomas Hung, Dn. Malachi, Dn. Gad Wong, Dn. Rufus, Dn. Benjamin Chiu, Dn. Baruch Wai, and Dn. Thaddaeus.

Seventh and Eighth Graduation Ceremony for Sabah GA Theological Seminary

A Theological Seminary Graduation Ceremony was held on the night of the end of the delegate meeting at Kota Kinabalu Church. The principal, Pr. Lemuel Leong, congratulated six students for completing four years of the seminary program under the protection of the Lord. He also wholeheartedly reminded the students to continue pursuing the goals and teachings they learned: Spiritual strength and wisdom, and to complete the task entrusted to them by the Lord. Pr. James Yapp encouraged the students to continue learning with a humble heart. Relay on the Lord in everything and be alert at all times. If they fear the Lord with a true heart, they will be able to complete the entrusted tasks.



Finally, the theological students presented three arranged hymns: Psalms 136, God's Servant, and All Heart and All Might. The ministers and deacons were greatly touched. They all laid hands and prayed for these students, blessed them, and officially sent them out.

2018-2020 Sabah GA EXCO Committee and Standing Committee

Chairman: Dn. John Vun, Pr. Lemuel Leong (Deputy)

Secretary-General: Dn. Benjamin Chiu

Financial Department Head: Dn. Nahum Ng, Cornelius Liau (Deputy)

Pastoral & Evangelical Department Head: Boaz Wong, James Yapp (Deputy)

Literary Department Head: Dn. Gamaliel Wai, Dn. Malachi (Deputy)

Religious Department Head: Dn. Joel Thomas, Dn. Baruch Wai (Deputy)

Seminary Head: Thomas Hung, Nathanael Chin (Deputy)

East Coast Zone: Pr. Haggai Tang, Nicodemus Tham (Deputy)

West Coast Zone: Pr. Zakheus Yong, Dn. Andrew Wong (Deputy)

Interior Zone: Pr. James Yapp, Dn. Rufus (Deputy)

Philippine Mission Committee: Pr. Lemuel Leong, Pr. Isaiah (Coordinator)

IYM Coordinator: Dn. Lazarus Tang, Bro. Chi-Shian Chang (Deputy)

May all the glory and praise be unto the Heavenly Father and God! Amen!

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Intercession

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
2/1-2/26	New Zealand	Pastoral (Christchurch)	San Sheng Li
2/7-2/22	US	Systematic Theology (Cerritos)	HH Ko
2/22-3/5	Argentina	Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation	Jonathan Chou
2/1-2/21	Brazil	Pastoral Visitation & Spiritual Convocation (2/10-13)	Jonathan Chou
2/2-3/5	Dominican Rep.	USGA TS Internship Training	Francisco Macias
2/25-3/12		Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation	Samuel Kuo
2/17-2/18	France	Spiritual Convocation	FF Chong
2/14-3/11	West Africa	Workers Training (Ghana): Youth Ministry, The 10 Articles of Faith, The Synoptic Gospels	Steven Shek

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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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