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Feature

The True Church Established by the Holy Spirit

Silas Chan

2017 marked the centenary ministry of the True Jesus Church since her establishment. The IA Executive Council members therefore agreed and encouraged churches in various parts of the world to organise thanksgiving services based on the theme of “100 Years—A Heritage of Spirituality and Grace”. In response to the IA’s request, the General Assemblies and Co-ordination Boards around the world immediately convened meetings to plan and organise various events, such as holding hymnal fellowships and commemorative concerts, and designating 2017 to be a year of evangelism. The churches in East Asia even set a growth target—A Hundred Years of Spiritual Blessings, Bringing Thousands to the Truth. By the guidance of the Holy Spirit, brothers and sisters were moved to take action with one accord and the servants of God were willing to take up responsibility for the furtherance of the gospel. We can see that their goals have been achieved through God’s blessings.

When we look back at the past century, it is not difficult to find numerous examples of the church experiencing attacks by Satan, who creates confusion over the truth and divisions within the church. In this age of advancing information technology and popularisation of the Internet, messages can be spread rapidly. The evil one is using every means to confuse man and entangle their hearts with deception, leading them to fall into traps and drift away. Nevertheless, the True Jesus Church is the true church established by the Holy Spirit. Through the abidance and guidance of God's Spirit, the church—being founded upon the pillar of the truth—is under His care and protection, and is accompanied by the earnest prayers offered by our brethren. The church maintains her position and strives to preach the gospel with genuine faith to this day. This makes us fully understand and appreciate the heart of Simeon who yearned to see the Child Jesus as written in the Scriptures (Lk 2:25-35).

1. Abidance of the Holy Spirit

As recorded in the Scriptures, Simeon was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. From this, we clearly understand why there was always a hope within Simeon. God's Spirit abided in him, strengthening his hope and keeping his faith from wavering, until he had seen God's salvation.

The True Jesus Church we believe in is the true church of the end times, and has the abidance of the Holy Spirit. The church is the body of Christ and the fullness of Him who fills all in all (Eph 1:23). Therefore, the true church has been growing in the past hundred years despite regularly facing the attacks of Satan. The church has expanded over sixty countries across five continents and persistently proclaim the salvation of the kingdom of God and race against time to save the souls of mankind. This corresponds to what was spoken by Apostle Paul: "And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (1 Cor 2:4-5).

2. Revelation of the Holy Spirit

"And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Lk 2:26). Because of this revelation, Simeon had the patience to wait for the birth of Christ. He was satisfied to see the Child Jesus in his old age. The Apostle Paul we are familiar with also received the revelation of the Holy Spirit and he mentioned in the book of Galatians "... that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal 1:11-12). Consequently, Paul fully understood the truth revealed by God and was

able to stand all tests. He went to many synagogues to preach the true gospel, contended earnestly for the truth and courageously testified that Jesus Christ was the Saviour.

When we think about the early workers of the True Jesus Church, we realise that the Holy Spirit revealed the truth of salvation to them—the five biblical doctrines of the church, namely Water Baptism, Footwashing, Holy Communion, Sabbath Day and Holy Spirit, which are in complete accordance with biblical teachings. The true church is still able to stand firm in her position in the face of over a hundred years of challenges because it is the church established by God in the end times with the continuous revelations of His Spirit and is being cared for and protected by Him.

3. Being moved by the Holy Spirit

“So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: ‘Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation ...’” (Lk 2:27-30). From this passage, we find that Simeon was guided and moved by the Spirit, and thus his hope was fulfilled. Similarly, John, whilst on the island of Patmos, was also moved by the Holy Spirit and heard behind him a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, “... What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches ...” (Rev 1:9-11). This vision is also directed at the church of the end times, reminding God’s people not to quench the Spirit but to rely on Him to proclaim the salvation of God and prosper His church with one accord. Let us all understand the will of God upon His true church in the end times and proactively accomplish our work of proclaiming warnings to the world, guiding them to repent and turn their hearts to Christ.

The True Jesus Church is indeed the ark established by the Holy Spirit in the end times. Her mission is to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned (Mk 16:15-16). As we have the abidance of the Holy Spirit and have received His revelation and have been moved by Him, the church has the power to accomplish the work of God effectively, like what is written in the Scriptures— “‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit’, says the Lord of hosts” (Zech 4:6).

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Brief Update on Singapore & Myanmar

The centenary commemoration in 2017 was an opportunity for us to ride on the historical milestone and mark the 90th anniversary of our church in Singapore. Hence we tied in the centennial with Singapore church's 90th anniversary bearing the theme: "Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit" (Rom 12:11). The following key areas of focus were identified based on our 4-fold mission extracted from the IA Handbook for workers published in November 2000:

- Revive the True Church
- Find the Lost Israelites
- Deliver those who are yet to be saved
- Complete the construction of the True Church

Highlights of Activities (May 2017 to Apr 2018) are as follows:

Spiritual Meeting

The mid-year spiritual meeting was used as a launch pad, riding on the same theme, with the 4 key areas as sub-themes. Following the spiritual meeting, activities targeting the 4 key areas were carried out via the age-based fellowships, district home fellowships and the religious education unit. This will continue through 2018 and beyond, pushing towards our own centennial in Singapore – a common goal made known to the congregations through the theme of our year-end spiritual meeting:

Press towards the goal (Phil 3:14)

- Towards the Centennial
- The glory of the latter house (Hag 2:9)
- Admiring Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith (Heb 12:1-2)

New candidates to be ordained

3 brothers and a sister have been cleared by the IA Exco and endorsed by their local churches to be serve as deacons and deaconess. They are slated for ordination during the mid-year spiritual meeting in May 2018.

Nursing Home Outreach

Gospel presentations to a gathering of residents and personal evangelism to smaller groups

continued at Orange Valley Nursing Home. This year we started weekly Bible-Study to a handful of interested truth-seekers, one of whom came to witness our baptism in Dec 2017.



Truth-seeker from the nursing home came to observe our baptism

Mission

Myanmar mission took on pastoral and training emphasis since a preacher was removed from office last year. For the second half of 2017, there were 5 baptised.

Date	Yangon	Taungzalat	Natkyikong	Sawbuayeshin	Letpanchaung	Aizawl
24/12/17		-	-	2	-	-
31/12/17	3	-	-	-	-	-

The current membership status of Myanmar churches are as follows:

ZChurches	Members	Preachers	Deacons	Teachers	
Yangon	80	1	-	7 (including 2 on leave)	
Taungzalat	69	1 (ordained in Dec 2017)	1	6 (including 2 assistants)	
Natkyikong	37		-	4 (Including 2 assistants)	
Sawbuayeshin	59		-	5 (including 3 assistants)	
Prayer Houses					
Letpanchaung	3		-	-	
Mamoh	4		-	-	
Lamzang	2				
Total	254	2	1	16	

Bro Mang Za Lian has been ordained Pr Joshua in Dec 2017 by Director of Eastern Hemisphere Department of World Mission, Eld Joshua Phoong. This brings the number of full-time preachers in Myanmar back to two.



Ordination of Pr. Joshua



Pr. Joshua with wife and daughters

Overseas Pastoral Support

Singapore churches continue to support the pastoral work in developing areas like Batu Pahat in West Malaysia and Batam in Indonesia, helping with conducting Sabbath services and teaching RE classes. In 2016 a total of 37 trips were made to Batu Pahat and 24 to Batam

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Church News

Holy Work Status Report in China

I. 2017 Annual Holy Work Report

The goal for 2017 was “Completeness” with the main focus of “Complete organization management and strengthen the establishment of team work.” With this goal, the books “Pastoral Regional Work Handbook” and “Holy Work Practicum Handbook” were written. The new “Holy Work Handbook” was also edited.

The year 2017 was the centennial of True Jesus Church. Under the organization of Board of Ministers, local churches in each region held various centennial services. Each local church

held thanksgiving hymnal services with the topic of “Thanksgiving, building the foundation, heritage, and expansion.” Spiritual convocations with the topic of “Knowing True Jesus Church” were also held. Beijing, being the original location of True Jesus Church, especially held a panel with “Reviewing History and Looking Ahead” as the topic. Each local church promoted the Centennial services in different ways. Some churches used art and multi-media as promotion. The church in Fuching city held a “Centennial Thanksgiving Heritage of Generations” children book and art exhibit. The Board of Ministers also published books of preaching in the centennial age. In order to provide a clearer understanding of the growth and establishment of the True Church, a special short media clip titled “Development of True Jesus Church History in the Last One Hundred Years” was produced. In order to make the event more memorable, the Literary Evangelism department designed a series of memorabilia, which included commemorative coins (two types), notebooks (multiple types), artistic copper plates, small bells, a golden lampstand, etc.



Guangzhou Church Choir Presentation on Sep 24, 2017

In 2016-2017, the goal of “Hundred Years of Thanksgiving, Tens of Thousands Return to God” was set for evangelism. Jesus was used to encourage workers and members of the churches to diligently preach the Gospel in order to welcome the Centennial festivities. The results of 2017 evangelism were good, as most churches were able to reach the goal, and some churches even surpassed the goal. From the 2015-2017 baptism numbers, the evangelical work increased year to year. In 2015, 5579 were baptized; in 2016, 8353 were baptized; and in 2017, 12016 were baptized.



Weifang Pastoral Area Choir Presentation on Oct 6, 2017

II. 2018 Holy Work Goal and Focus

The goal for 2018 is “Elevate.” The focus of 2018 work includes:

- To amplify the evangelical work and increase awareness for all
- To diligently learn the Holy Work Handbook and elevate the regulatory management within the church
- To promote member registration and elevate the unifying standard
- To make Bible reading universal among members and elevate the habit of spiritual cultivation
- To promote morning prayers within members and elevate the importance of prayer
- To learn the ten articles of faith in depth and elevate the members’ knowledge of faith
- To strengthen training of workers in each level and elevate the attainment of Holy Work
- To strengthen pastoral visitation work and elevate the care and concern of each region
- To hold more special topic meetings and elevate the ability decision-making responsiveness.

The slogan for 2018 is: Spread to Tens of Thousands, Adding Tens of Thousands.

III. 2018 First Quarter Holy Work Report

There was a visitation of elderly workers before Chinese New Year. A Winter Theological

Cultivation Seminar was held 1/28 to 2/2. On 1/30, a special topic seminar was held with the topic “Indigenization of Christianity in China.” 3/10 – 11 was the first quarter council meeting of 2018. General Affairs and Financial Affairs panels for each region were held 3/25 evening to 3/26.

Holy work for first quarter: To plan 2018 work for each region. Organize all workers to learn the new “Holy Work Handbook.” Start a new round of member registration work. Implement the promotion of classes to learn about the Bible.



Fuzhou Pastoral Area Choir Centennial Commemoration Concert on Oct 8, 2017

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🍎 *Intercession*

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
6/6-6/9	Sabah	Eastern Hemisphere Youth Fellowship (KK Church)	Isaiah Phan
6/13-6/19		Lectures on Editing a magazine (Sabah GA)	Su-Hua Lin/ Lien-Chu Lin

6/1-6/18	Malaysia	National Junior Youth & Intermediate Youth Camp/RE & Youth chairmen seminar & spiritual nurture/National Tertiary Camp	Heebong Oh
6/22-6/24		Tamil Speaking Members Spiritual Meeting (Kajang Utama)	Andrew Nickelson
6/5-7/2		Regional Pastoral Attachment (Central Region)	I-Ju Fang
6/8-7/2		Regional Malay Speaking Spiritual Meeting	Neria Sapau Peter Xie
6/9-6/22	Singapore	6/9-22: Youth Theological Training Course 6/17-21: Adult Bible Course	Hong Hsiung Ko
6/14-7/16	New Zealand	6/15-26: Spiritual Nurture Session for Committee Members and Ministers (Christchurch/Auckland/East Auckland) 7/6-15: Students' Spiritual Convocation (Auckland)	Ezra Chong
6/1-6/10	Vietnam	Pastoral & Evangelical/VMT Meeting & Spiritual Nurture	Myungjo Heu
6/28-7/2	Chile	Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation	Timothy Yeung
June	Ecuador	Pastoral Work	Shen Ming Chen
6/15-6/25	Dominica	Pastoral Work	Enoch Hou
6/26-7/15	Russia	Pastoral Visitation	Michael Hsu
6/25-9/12	South Africa	Pastoral Work 7/20-22: Pastoral Ministry/Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation 7/27-29: Pastor Port of Elizabeth 7/30-8/12: Pastor Port of Cape Town	Min-Hsiung Chang

6/14-7/4	Malawi	Pastoral Ministry/Training	Tony Kuo/ Volunteer
6/14-7/15	Zambia	Pioneering/Training	FF Chong/ F. Macias
6/6-6/18	Dubai	Bible Seminar with Holy Communion and Spiritual Convocation	Ezekiel 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 ia@tjc.org.tw.

✧ *May our Lord remember your contribution and bless you abundantly!*

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