

CONTENTS

-  **FEATURE > EVANGELISM AND BELIEF**.....
-  **CHURCH NEWS > UPDATES ON HOLY WORK IN VIETNAM**.....
-  **CHURCH NEWS > HOLY WORK REPORT ON HONG KONG AND
MACAU**.....
-  **INTERCESSION**.....
-  **ONE DOLLAR ONE SOUL**.....

Feature

Evangelism and Belief

Ezekiel Chang

In the last days, the true church's great commission is to preach the gospel. This is a responsibility that the Lord Jesus has entrusted to every believer. Those who preach the gospel are praised for their "beautiful feet" (Rom 10:15). Preaching the gospel is also a way of praising God and of "telling of His salvation from day to day" (Ps 96:2). However, even though we know from the Bible that evangelism and a sense of mission are extremely important, we are also currently faced with formalized ways of doing church work and a weak sense of mission among believers. Therefore, we need to revive, consolidate, and increase their sense of mission, and to share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God (2 Tim 1:8b).

1. I am not ashamed of the gospel (Rom 1:16)

There was once a sister who wanted to preach to a 70-year-old man, so she arranged for him to meet a preacher at a small restaurant. As soon as he saw the preacher, the old man said with some surprise, "I thought that all church pastors are old. Why are you so young?" He continued, "You should establish a career and contribute to society." The preacher was

completely taken aback. He couldn't simply tell the man, "I contribute to society too – preachers work on people's souls!", and it seemed like a boastful thing to say. But once he thought about matters from his society's perspective, the old man's blunt comments made some sense.

Modern society has been overrun by utilitarian ideas and money-oriented thinking. The gulf between social values and religious ideas is also getting larger and larger. The Lord Jesus said, "For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth" (Jn 18:37). The conversation that took place when the Lord Jesus was being tried before Pilate reveals two completely different worldviews and ways of thinking (Jn 18:33-40). But despite these differences, the Lord Jesus still spoke for the truth because He was not "ashamed" of the gospel. Similarly, in today's progressive society one truly needs to have great faith and great love for others' souls. Living in an era in which people do not endure sound teaching (2 Tim 4:3), there is an even greater need for us to replace self-centeredness with humility, and to preach the good news with patience and gentleness! (1 Pet 3:15).

2. The work of evangelism

When planning any divine work, the church will have a yearly plan as well as people who will be responsible for organizing everything. Members will be scheduled to help out and given different roles to perform. For each divine work these members undertake, they will need to go through a process of preparation, implementation, completion and reviewal. Ultimately, those involved in the work will perform and complete their service out of their love for the Lord. Furthermore, every divine work offers an opportunity to learn and grow – and when the work is completed, the workers receive satisfaction and may even be rewarded with spiritual comfort.

“Rethinking” the work of evangelism

Those who preach the gospel do not immediately gain the satisfaction or reward that comes with completing a divine work. More often than not, those who preach the gospel cannot control the progress of the work, which makes it hard for them to not feel lost. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth" (1 Cor 3:6). We must go out and do the work of evangelism with all earnestness. After all, once others have heard the gospel, whether or not they believe is not our concern. Our task is to "warn everyone and teach everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ" (Col 1:28). The rest is all up to the movement and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good (Eccl 11:6).

▲ [TOP](#)

 [Church News](#)

Updates on Holy Work in Vietnam

Vietnam Holy Work Group

Recently, the Vietnamese government identified a Christian denomination as a cult organization. A lot of negative press surfaced, such as: persuading its members to abandon their family, relatives and friends; members offering their money to the organization and neglecting their family and children, drinking unknown substances, praying in delirium by some members, and requiring female members to cover their head during services. Many of its members' families reported their tragic stories to the media and authorities, attracting national attention and concern. It is not easy to preach the gospel in Vietnam to begin with. With the onslaught of the news of the cult, we face even more difficulties in evangelism and must exercise greater caution.

The cult also uses young people, especially those who are in school, to pass on their “gospel” to others in public places such as hospitals, cafes, shopping centers, and trails and gardens. Therefore, when the authorities were informed about this kind of behavior, they sent a lot of security personnel and police to patrol and stop it. Coincidentally, their method of evangelism is just like ours: inviting people to their church to study the Bible and examine the truth. With the news of the cult still ringing in people's ears, many people have raised their guard against any Christians evangelizing to them, perhaps fearing that they would also fall into and become trapped in the cult organization. We have to not only deal with the authorities, but also bear the risk of people reporting our act of evangelizing— what a crises-riddled situation!

Despite the current situation, we still see the continuous expansion of other church denominations. In addition to local Christian churches in Vietnam, many Korean Christians have also established churches in Vietnam in recent years. More and more Koreans are entering Vietnam to set up factories or do business, which helps the local economy. In addition, the places where Koreans live become a Korean community. This is probably why Koreans have faced few impediments when they want to set up their own churches within their community.

Therefore, at the beginning of June this year, we sent a Korean preacher to Vietnam for the first time to assist us and conduct a preliminary exploration. In addition to pastoring the members (including Korean members) living in Vietnam, the preacher also looked for opportunities to evangelize to the Korean community. May the will of the Lord Jesus guide us. We will try our best in any given opportunity to evangelize.



Korean Preacher Myungjo Heo (far right) visiting a member's house

Even when the situation is far from optimistic, we still see the guidance of God. Recently, the number of truth-seeking friends has increased. May God continue to guide them.



Sis Fang Fang sharing her testimony to friends

Lastly, I wish to appeal to everyone to continue in intercession and support. If you know any Vietnamese friends or believers, regardless of whether they are truth-seekers or brethren working abroad in Vietnam, please contact the Vietnam Holy Work Group so that they can follow up and evangelize to them. May all glory be given to the Lord!



Group photos of friends after Bible class

▲ [TOP](#)

Church News

Holy Work Report on Hong Kong and Macau

Hong Kong Coordination Board

Ap Cha Story Room

By concerted efforts of all parties concerned, the Ap Chau story room was open on 8th April 2018 after 2 years of preparation. Apart from the heritage, development, culture and special landform of Ap Chau village, the story room also recorded the grace of God to the Ap Chau villagers and the wonderful arrangement of God in preaching the Gospel.



Although Ap Chau was a tiny fishing village and the least populated island in Hong Kong, God chose it to spread the Gospel. One could feel the Grace of God and His guidance to this little island during the preparation work of the story room. The opening of the Ap Chau story room would let people know more about Ap Chau, as well as True Jesus Church.

The Hong Kong Coordination Board planned to make good use of the Ap Chau story room in evangelistic work. The church has arranged a team of docents to introduce to visitors the missionary history, testimony, common faith, as well as our church locations and service times during guided tours in the story room. Please pray for this work. May our work be pleasing in the eyes of our Lord and our work be fruitful.

Pioneer Area of Macau

Currently, family services are held twice monthly in Macau, once on Sabbath and once on Sunday. The family services are led by Hong Kong Church's resident preacher, church board members and youth members. RE teachers are also arranged to provide religious education. Sabbath service and evening service on Wednesday and Friday are also broadcasted to the members.



Place of Worship in Macau

Four of the Macau members also attended the Spiritual Convocation of Hong Kong church in April in pursuit for spiritual grace.

Thanks to the guidance of God, TJC members of other regions often go to visit and care for the Macau members. Truth-seekers also attend the services. May God continue to lead the evangelistic work in Macau, strengthen the faith of the members and spread the Gospel throughout Macau. May all glory be unto our Lord Jesus.

Other Pioneer Area

On 21st – 27th December 2017, Deacon Luke Yip and 3 volunteers made a missionary trip to Cambodia. They assisted with the spiritual convocation in Prey Veng, as well as the holy work in Phnom Penh. Besides helping out with holy work, they also held a forum with the volunteer workers to share their experience in giving sermon, and gave a short English lesson. Please keep praying for the Cambodian pioneer area and may God continue to lead the holy work there.



Prayer House in Cambodia

▲ [TOP](#)

 **Intercession**

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
7/2-7/22	Sabah	7/2-5 Theological Camp 7/8 West Coast Zone Divine Workers Seminar 7/9-11 West Coast Zone & East Coast Zone Preachers Seminar (Penampang) 7/15 West Coast Zone Ordained Workers & Wives' Spiritual Nurture (Kolombong) 7/21-22 East Coast Zone Divine Workers Seminar (Sub Zone Tawau-Tawau)	Ming Cheng Wu
7/1-7/22	Indonesia	Teachers Training (Canaan School)	Tsai Ching Zhi
7/23-9/1		Short Term Theological Training Course/Personal Evangelism	Yairus Insing

7/20-7/23	Japan	Korea Preacher Visitation (Kansai)	Yoon Jong Dek
7/2-7/16	Australia	7/2-9 Student Spiritual Convocation (Cannington) 7/10-16 Divine Worker Seminar/Training/Evangelical Convocation (Dianella)	Silas Kong
7/2-7/23	Philippines	Chinese Community Outreach / Evangelize to Chinese in Manila	Caleb Chen
7/30-8/5	USA	National Youth Theological Seminar Pioneering Missionary Volunteer Program (Irvine)	Timothy Yeung
7/3-7/23	Argentina	7/8-9 Youth Spiritual Convocation 7/15-20 Student Spiritual Convocation	(7/3-23) Timothy Yeung (7/15-22) Pablo Chou
7/31-8/4	Germany	10-17 years Students Spiritual Convocation/Special Service with Holy Communion (Heidelberg)	HH Ko
7/9-8/12	South Africa	Sermon Training (7/10-12) Workers Training(7/15-18) Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation (7/20-22)	(7/9-23) Derren Liang (7/9-8/12) John Huang
7/11-8/20		Pastoral ministry/Johannesburg Spiritual Convocation (7/20-22)/Cape Town Board Member Seminar/Pastor Port of Elizabeth	Luke Chan

▲ [TOP](#)

🍌 *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!*

▲ [TOP](#)

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