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Feature

Restoring the Image of God

Ming Chang Wang

God created man according to His own image in truth and righteousness, and by abiding with His glorious Spirit, the man created from humble clay survived and was blessed. With God's protection thousands of generations continue to preserve this heritage. But from the beginning, people have not been able to obtain true satisfaction in their soul because of sin and are lost in hopeless corruption.

By God's grace and His salvation, we stand firm and free from the burden of sins. After receiving the words of Christ, we find that the truth is not only to rely on Christ who redeems us from the life and burden of sin, so our heart can be relieved with no more fear and worry, but that through Him we are able to restore the image of God. How do we restore the image of God?

1. Put on the new man

To put on the new man means putting on Christ and manifesting the likeness of Christ. The Bible says, "Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from

sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires” (Rom 13:11-14). “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal 3:27). “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil 1:21). We can see that Paul is a person who truly put on Christ.

We are now called new men, but making it so in truth is the most important point. What is the point in putting on the clothes of a new man if we are filled with all unrighteousness? The church in Sardis is alive in name, but is actually dead because nothing is perfect before God. God looks at man’s inner heart. Therefore, it is important to be renewed in the spirit of our minds. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to overcome our weaknesses and deficiencies, help us take away all the filth in our hearts and not to grieve the Holy Spirit, so that we may please God.

2. The Image of God

Because we are constantly renewed, we will eventually become a completely new man, like the image of God! This is our final step! “The image of God,” (Eph 4:24) refers to being in “righteousness” and “holiness.” From the Bible, we learn that God’s character is not only “righteousness” (Psa 7:19) and “holiness” (Isa 6:2-3), but also “goodness” (2 Chr 5:13), “love” (1 Jn 4:8), etc.

In the beginning God created man in His image (Gen 1:26). Man was made like God not only in appearance but in the character. However, our ancestors disobeyed the commandment of God, which caused the death of their soul and they lost the likeness of God (Gen 2:17) until Jesus Christ was born from heaven and the way of the cross was opened for mankind. Those who believe in Him and accept Him, by His blood and the Holy Spirit, can gradually restore the original image of man, which is the image of God. Peter said, “by which have been given to us exceeding great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature (love, sanctification, holiness) , having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Pet 1:4). Paul said, “being transferred into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor 3:18). He also said, “Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Eph 4:13). The term “divine nature of God,” “the image of the Lord,” and “the stature of the fullness of Christ” are describing “the image of God”! If a believer who has already received baptism and the Holy Spirit does not have the image of God, then he is a deformed child who has not grown up in spirit.

Brothers and sisters, let us examine ourselves! If we are honest, don't we all still have a ways to go before we are perfect? Isn't there still room for us to achieve God's divine nature, God's image, and the status of the fullness of Christ? Let us pursue the true fullness of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit said we should reflect on our progress. So when the Lord comes again, we can receive Him as ones who have put on the new man and the image of God.

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Church News

Church Development and Sacred Work Update in US

USGA

Hallelujah, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we would like to share with our brothers and sisters around the world recent developments in the holy work of the USGA and among the churches in the United States.

Southwest Regional TJC Centennial Thanksgiving Music Fellowship



Praise God, all the TJC in the US Southwest Region held a TJC Centennial event on 10/29/2017 (Sunday) at Irvine Church, California. In the morning, a thanksgiving service was conducted with a sermon by Pr. Derren Liang, followed by a status overview of TJC around the world, a video of TJC in USA, and a video of Elder S.T. Hsieh's encouragement during the WDC Centennial Thanksgiving Service. After a fellowship lunch, a music fellowship took place where the adult, youth, and children choirs from all over the Southwest Region joined together and reflected on the church's 100 years of history with hymns. Exhibition areas were set up with display of IA/USGA materials in the LM, RE, youth ministry, music ministry, evangelical departments as well as Chinese publications from the Philemon Bookstore. Thank God, the event was attended by about 500 members, and many experienced the joyful fellowship and edification in reflecting and giving thanks and glory to God!

USA East Region Centennial Thanksgiving Service and Hymnal Fellowship



True Jesus Church
East Region Centennial Thanksgiving Service
June 10, 2018 | Hillsborough, NJ

Praise and thank God, the East Region churches held a Centennial Thanksgiving service on June 10th, 2018 at Hillsborough Church in New Jersey. The theme of the service was "Centennial Succession: Arise and Shine." A total of 482 members and visitors attended the service and testified of the spiritual grace the true Church has experienced these past 100 years. We also took the opportunity to remember the history of the development of the East Region churches.

Pr. Steve Hwang spoke of “The Wind and the Seed” to reflect how God uses the Holy Spirit and the Truth to establish His Church. Elder Jonathan Chou and Elder Yang-Rui Chen testified of the development of the true Church through miraculous signs and wonders around the world. The adult, youth, and children’s choirs of the East Region churches combined with the orchestra to praise God with one heart and mind. All the saints shared in communion with each other through the Spirit and with love, fellowshiping in the house of God.

Through this Centennial service, the local churches were mutually encouraged to unite their gifts through the Holy Spirit to broaden the ministry in the next century. This service encouraged us to fulfill His commission to preach the gospel to all nations, preparing ourselves to welcome His return. All members rejoiced – “Praise the Lord!” May all glory and praise be to the Lord’s holy name.

Religious Education Teachers Seminar (RETS)



Praise the Lord for His guidance during this year’s Religious Education Teachers Seminar was held by USGA Pastoral Department at Hillsborough Church, New Jersey from July 1 to July 8. There were a total of 44 participants from 21 different churches and worship locations across the United States and Canada. During the eight-day seminar, the participants learned basic pedagogy, hymnal worship, how to analyze the Scripture, and had a detailed study of the Ten

Basic Beliefs. Apart from gaining spiritual knowledge, the seminar also prepared students to be spiritually filled and become holy vessels for the Lord. May God guide the participants can set a good example for others, teach with love and patience, serve God with a humble heart, understand that Religious Education is a spiritual warfare, and that RE teachers should always be filled with Holy Spirit to be faithful servants.

National Ministers' Workshop

The 2017 National Minister Workshop (NMW) was held during November 6-10 in Texas, USA. The event started with a 5-day seminar at Houston Church. There were 32 ministers and their wife. The theme for this Workshop is "100 Years a Heritage of Spirituality and Grace." The seminar included classes, prayers, hymn singing, discussions, testimonies & sharing (by country), group presentation (by country), Q&A, and fellowship activities.

Praise God, there were a lot of wonderful fellowship between the participants and also with the local members. Many participants also found the testimonies and sharing of the church's ministry work in the various areas in America to be edifying and encouraging. The overall atmosphere felt like that of one big family, despite the many ministers from different countries (North and South America, Taiwan, and Russia) and languages spoken and cultural background. May the Lord help the participants to bring back what they have learned about our heritage of grace and spirituality.

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Church News

Situational Report of Tonga & Samoa

Joshua Phoong

Tonga

Statistics

Presently we have about 10 members in Tonga. All of them are from China, coming here to open provision shops. The numbers varies from time to time, as many of them move around from China and Tonga.

We are holding weekly services on Saturday & Sunday in a member's house in the capital city, Nuku'alofa. Sermons are delivered when workers are sent there. In the absence of workers, a simple service of hymn singing, prayer, bible reading & occasionally listening to recorded sermons were held.



Believers in Tonga

Pastoral

Pastoral of our members here are mainly carried out by volunteers from New Zealand with assistance from NZ resident preacher and EHDWM personnel. In total we planned 6 trips a year. The members here had a busy schedule, opening their shops from 7am to 10pm. However, some members close their shop for 2 hours to attend the Sabbath service. Sunday is a compulsory off day in the country. As such we had better attendance on Sunday services than Saturday. During the visits of our volunteers, they will closed their shop early for nightly service. This year a China preacher will be sent here to assist in the pastoral work.

Evangelical

Evangelism is mainly to Chinese relatives and friends. We have 4 regular truth seekers attending our service.

We tried preaching to the locals but our members here are not able to follow up.

Samoa

Statistics

Presently we have about 12 members staying in the capital city, Apia. All of them are from China, mainly from two family groups, Bro Weng relatives and Bro Yu relatives. They either open convenience store or supermarket.

Services are held in a member's residence only when workers are sent here. They are not able to hold services by themselves.



Believers in Samoa

Pastoral

We plan to send workers here 4 times a year. Most of the workers are from New Zealand with support from their resident preacher and EHDWM personnel.

The members are busy working from 6:20am to 10pm. Most of them work 7 days a week. The members stay far from one another. As such the services held are attended by 5-7 members only. A China preacher will be sent here to assist in the pastoral work.

Evangelical

Evangelism is mainly to relatives of our members. One of the truth seeker is baptized when he return to China. Another baby is baptized here.

We have yet to carry out active evangelism to the local people.

In both these countries, the way forward is to preach to local people. This has to be done by English speaking workers sent by us. Follow up will be a challenge. We are looking into setting up teams of voluntary workers to carry our regular follow up work.

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Intercession

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
8/1-8/31	Sabah	Church's Pastoral Work (Tuaran Subzone)	Hana Liang
8/5-8/19		Interior Zone Ordained Workers & Wivies' Spiritual Nurture: Character Study - Aquila & Priscilla Interior Zone Preachers Seminar: Character Study – Moses/Paul (Keningau) East Coast Zone Divine Workers Seminar: The First Faith (Sub Zone Lahad Datu)	Hao Wu
8/2-8/27		Regional Pastoral Attachment (South Region)	Hsiung-Fu Yeh
8/16-9/7	Malaysia	Adult Theological Seminar	Sheng-Chung Chen
8/7-8/10		EHDWM Meeting - Travelling, Meeting	EHDWM Members
8/10-8/23	Indonesia	Preachers Seminar/Pastoral for Pioneering area	Fu-Ming Tse
8/12-8/19	Hong Kong	RE Teachers Workshop	Chun-Lin Kao
8/1-8/22	Japan	RE Teachers Workshop (Tokyo/Yokohama/Kawaguchi/Chiba/Sumida) Student Spiritual Convocation (Tokyo) Bible Seminar (Sumida)	En-Kuang Li

8/2-9/17	New Zealand	Pastoral	Tong-Wen Huang
Aug	Papua New Guinea	Pastoral & Evangelical	Joshua Phoong
8/5-8/26	UK	Youth Theological Training Course(Edinburgh & Sunderland) 1st Year-NT Introduction: How to Study the Bible (I) 2nd Year-OT Introduction: How to Study the Bible (I)	Tony Kuo
8/23-9/13		TTP Course: OT History (I)-Jos. Jdg. Ruth	Jonathan Chou
8/4	Germany	Special Service with Holy Communion (Heidelberg)	HH Ko
8/21-8/26	Italy	Spiritual Convocation(8/21-22 Prato, 8/23-26 Empoli)	Naihsin Chen/ BQ Wang
8/15-8/19	Spain	Spiritual Convocation/Madrid Church Dedication	Naihsin Chen/ HH Ko
8/26-9/17	Brazil	Pastoral Work	GH Chen/ Pablo Chou
8/17-8/25	FOZ	Pastoral Work/Training	GH Chen/ MT Kuo
8/7-8/19	Ecuador	Pastoral Work	Chen Ming Chu
8/10-9/10	Dominican Rep.	USGATS Internship Training	Francisco Macias
8/31-9/10		Pastoral Visitation	Ming Tao Kuo
8/16-9/16	Zambia Malawi	Pastoral Ministry/Training/Student Spiritual Convocation (8/16-29 Malawi, 8/30-9/16 Zambia)	Raymond Leacock/ Daniel Liew
8/16-8/27	Mid East-Dubai	Bible Seminar	Philip Shee

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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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