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Feature

Preach the Gospel to All the World: Mission and Commitment

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). Contained in this familiar verse is the great mission the Lord Jesus passed down in the apostolic times, which continues to call out to us even today. How should we respond to it? Undeniably, God’s work and salvation plan are incredibly wonderful as humankind is given the free will to seek God (Acts 17:26-27). However, if no one preaches the gospel of heaven, who can hear it (Rom 10:17)?

Therefore, if anyone wants to carry out this great mission, it is necessary to commit to the kingdom of God. To spread the message of heaven to all places is the mission entrusted by the Lord Jesus (Mk 1:38). Paul also took up this mission and was determined to spread the gospel to every corner of the Roman Empire (Acts 26:22), so that they could also partake in the goodness of the gospel (1 Cor 9:23). Are we willing to commit ourselves to accomplish this mission?

Commitment to the mission: between the choices

The church is an entity that the Lord Jesus has purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28), so the establishment of a church requires each believer to commit oneself and work together to advance holy work. When we look at the churches in the early apostolic times, it is not difficult to observe the believers' commitment; such commitment was made in order to fulfill the great mission and jointly establish the church of Christ (Acts 2:42-47).

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Lk 9:23). Look at the wealthy young man: the Lord Jesus wanted him to sell his possessions and follow Him, but his wealth became his greatest obstacle, which caused him to lose his chance to commit to the mission (Mk 10:21-23). Therefore, commitment has two meanings. First, it means to accept the entrustment of the true God, wholeheartedly become the servant of Christ, and willingly make this sacrifice unconditionally. In this way, one will eventually accomplish the spiritual mission. Second, it means to commit to Christ and make oneself completely belong to the Lord. In everything, think of God's commands first and never forget to glorify God.

Giving up oneself is the threshold for following the Lord Jesus. To give up oneself is to let go of oneself, deny oneself, and be willing to let go of one's career, hobbies, interests, family, and even life for the mission of God's kingdom. Therefore, when the Lord Jesus said to give up oneself, it means to make sacrifices for God's kingdom. Isn't Paul the best example?

Commitment to the mission: the path of grace

As early as twelve years old, the Lord Jesus clearly knew His mission. He once said to His parents, “Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business? (Lk 2:49).” “My Father's business” was the mission God gave to Jesus. It was a mission for life - the moment when he said “It is done” on the cross, he finally fulfilled his mission on the earth, which has become the path of grace for all.

The Lord Jesus committed to the mission. Are we who have received grace compelled to repay Him by committing ourselves to the mission? Even if we feel compelled, do we have the courage to give up all things to follow the Lord and not look back? Unfortunately, most of us are in a state of contradiction. We know that everything is vanity, but we still hold on tightly to it. As a Christian, if we live in a dilemma between two kinds of life, how long is it going to take for us to commit to the mission and complete it? No one knows!

We seem to place greater importance on our responsibility towards family and society more than the mission of God's kingdom. We are not as earnest as when the Lord Jesus marched toward Jerusalem. If we are to say that we love our God with all our heart and strength, this may need to be redefined.

Mission and Commitment: Exploring the preciousness of the oil of spikenard

Mary undoubtedly set the model of "loving the Lord deeper." She seized the opportunity, broke the jar, and did her best. The oil of spikenard was about a pound; she anointed the head and feet of Jesus and wiped them with her hair (Jn 12:3). The value of the oil and her sincerity showed her deep love for Jesus. The jar and the oil were both worth a lot of money. Mary's action tells us that if we want to love the Lord deeper, we must offer the best to the Lord Jesus; we must break through our own limits and transcend the human tendency to be stingy.

The oil of spikenard also represented "chastity," and unmarried women could not use it. Once the jar is broken, it means that there is no longer any reservation – all should be poured out and anointed. Paul once referred to the church as "a chaste virgin (2 Cor 11:2)," so we should let the Lord alone enjoy our wholehearted love and love Him forever. Have we offered our best to the Lord?

Concluding remarks

For this great mission, can we give the Lord our best talent? Can we give the Lord our best years? Or like the disciples, do you think that doing such is a waste? If we dedicate our best years with the most abundant energy completely to the Lord, how great would be the glory! He is definitely worthy our best – the days of our youth, our prime, filled with strength. This is truly "I belong to my Lord." When a person willingly sacrifices for the Lord, it does not matter how much this person has given, but how much value this person has placed the Lord in their heart.

I hope that every child of God can clearly understand their role and gifts in the church, use them to serve God, strive in one heart with the brethren to preach the gospel to all the world and together keep the pure gospel, make a commitment to the evangelical mission, establish a correct set of concepts, apply faith into our lives and respond to the needs of our times. This is the direction that we should all commit to in striving forward.

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An Overview of Sacred Work in Canada

Canada is a country with a vast expanse of land, an area of over 9.98 billion sq. km. The population is just over 36 million, mostly concentrated in the southern part. USA is the neighboring country on a ribbon like border. Canada is a multi-cultural country with different ethnic groups living harmoniously together. Toronto is the largest city with people speaking over 200 languages. Half of the people speak their mother tongues other than English and French. The multi-cultural level is quite close to what Jesus mentioned to the disciples in his instructions regarding “all nations” – “Go and make disciples of all nations!”



2018 Toronto Church Spring Convocation - Group Photo before Church

The Holy Spirit, through His workers, has established four churches, two prayer houses and three places of worship in Canada, altogether there are 924 members. Vancouver is located in the province of British Columbia, which is on the Pacific Ocean. This is a vast picture of beautiful scenery: with mountains at the back and proximity to the ocean with numerous parks and green trees. There are Vancouver Church and Surrey Place of Worship. Further to the east of approximately fourteen hours by car is Calgary Church which “rides in the heights of the earth” at over 1000 meters above sea level in the province of Alberta. The air is fresh there and it is close to the Banff National Park. The Lethbridge Place of Worship is about two hours by car from Calgary, and is located at the southeast of Calgary. Further north about three hours by car from Calgary is Edmonton Church in Alberta, where the northern lights can be seen occasionally. Flying from there by airplane to the east for 4 hours is Toronto Church,

which is located in the Five Great Lakes Area of Canada. It is close to Niagara Falls with driving for about over one hour. Toronto Church, Kitchener Prayer House and Ottawa Place of Worship are all in the province of Ontario. Montreal Prayer House is about 6 hours driving from Toronto Church. Montreal is a French speaking city, which resembles Europe the most though it is not in Europe.

There are bible studies in Surrey Place of Worship and Bible Study Fellowships in Vancouver Church during weekdays. Vancouver Church also helps the pastoral work in Seattle of US. Surrey is about 30 mins by car from Vancouver. There are about 50 members. Friday evening services and Sabbath Day Services are held at a rental church of another denomination. The members in Lethbridge Place of Worship are few, but most of the time there are over 10 truth seekers attending services. This shows evidently that the Holy Spirit is working there. Canadian Coordination Council is much concerned about the progress of the holy work there. May the Lord guide the holy work there. Toronto Church plays great emphasis on bible studies targeting different age groups with different objectives and evangelical strategies. For example, there is the publication of the “Living Water” – a 4 pages periodical, gospel tea fellowships, and hymnal evangelical services, etc.



ESSC in Calgary, Canada on Sep 15-17, 2017

At the present time, most of the members of Canadian churches are Chinese and truth seekers baptized are also mostly Chinese from Mainland China. Thank God! Occasionally there are truth seekers other than Chinese attending services. However, it is difficult for them to stay for long. We earnestly pray that the Holy Spirit will work and guide us in this respect of the work. In June and July of this year, three preachers in Canada have been sent by

International Assembly, two to help out the holy work in Africa and one in South America. Thank God that He allows Canada to partake in the global holy work and local churches have the opportunities to be self-pastoring. In recent years, Lord Jesus has used many young holy workers in local churches. Their faith and service have grown to maturity. Step by step they take up the responsibilities of the Church Council. They have the determination to serve God that they request proactively for training in leading sermons and pastoral work. It is believed that in the passing on of the holy work, God has His new commission according to His will. May all churches pray for the holy work in Canada.

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Church News

New Zealand Holy Work Update

Pr. Fu-An Shih

IA assigned Elder Fuming Tse and Preacher Simon Chin to assist with the Spring and Autumn Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocations for the churches in New Zealand. In total, 30 people were baptized, and 33 people received the Holy Spirit. In East Auckland Church, 4 people were baptized, and 7 received the Holy Spirit. In Auckland Church, 23 people were baptized, and 22 received the Holy Spirit. In Christchurch Church, 3 people were baptized, and 4 received the Holy Spirit.



Starting this year, East Auckland Church arranged evangelical service in the morning and testimony session in the afternoon on the last Saturday of each month. They extended the lunch period by 30 minutes for adult choir practice and holy workers' training. Auckland Church formally established a prayer house in the western district with three board members, and found a location that they could rent consistently. Their evangelical work is progressing steadily, and their members are becoming stronger in faith day by day. North Shore Prayer House also set up three board members, is renting a suitable place and started holding Sabbath service. Since the Sabbath service began, many truth-seekers have joined. Thank God! Christchurch Church is proactively reconstructing and reinforcing her chapel. May God guide the work!



Service in North Shore Prayer House

College Youth Spiritual Convocation was held November 18-23, 2017 with the theme of "Christology." IA assigned Elder Joshua Phoong to assist with this event. There were 21 students, 43 counselors, and 27 members who received Holy Communion during this event. Student Spiritual Convocation was held July 7-13, 2018, and the theme was "A Life of Prayer." IA assigned Preacher Ezra Chong to assist with this event. There were 21 students, 7 counselors, 4 received the Holy Spirit and 38 members who received Holy Communion during this event.

This year the director of the IA Eastern Hemisphere Department arranged for the Council Members Spiritual Convocation in New Zealand, which was held on both North Island and

South Island. IA assigned Preacher Ezra Chong to conduct this event, which received positive feedback from believers. Thank God!



Prayer House in the Western District

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 **Intercession**

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
9/10—9/21	Sabah	Theological Seminary Year 3, Batch 9: Daniel, Revelation (GA)	Wang Ming Chang
9/4—10/1	Malaysia	Regional Pastoral Attachment (Central Region)	I Ju Fang
9/7—10/2		Regional Pastoral Attachment(Northern Region)	Jen Guang Huang
9/15—9/23		RE Counseling Training (GA)	Chen Rui Fang
9/3—9/23	Indonesia	Theological Seminary: Isaiah	Lemuel Leong
9/2—9/14	Korea	National Preachers Spiritual Nurture	Hong Hsiung Ko

9/14 – 9/20		Nat Student Spiritual Meeting/ Nat Youth EXCO Training/ Preachers' Spiritual Nurture	Steven Shek
9/23-10-21	Thailand	Assisting in Setting up and Teaching Choir of Mae Sai Student Center	Rung Fang Ding
9/6 – 9/17	Singapore	Ministers, Exco Spiritual Nurture/ Preachers' Spiritual Nurture	Fu Ming Tse
9/12 – 9/25	Australia	Student Spiritual Convocation/Pastoral Visit (Dianella/Cannington)	Thomas Kam
9/17 – 9/30		Spiritual & Evangelistic Convocation/ Youth Retreat (Melbourne)	Ezra Chong
9/23 – 10/7		Spiritual & Evangelistic Convocation (Brisbane)	Zechariah Li
9/21 – 9/23	Hong Kong	National Youth EXCO Review, Spiritual Nurture & Training	Steven Shek
9/28 – 10/14		Spiritual Convocation: (9/28-30)Tai Po, (10/4-7)Kowloon, (10/11-14) HK Island	Zhen Sheng Luo
9/15 – 10/15	Japan	Spiritual Convocation: (9/22-24) Kansai, (9/28-30) Sumida/Chiba, (10/6-8) Yokohama, (10/12-14) Tokyo/Kawaguchi	Chih Hsin Huang
9/18 – 10/22	New Zealand	Bible Seminar, Evangelistic & Spiritual Convocation (Christchurch/Auckland/East Auckland)	DC Lai
9/13 – 10/6	Fiji	Fiji Mission	Worker from East Asia
9/26 – 9/30	US	Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation (Irvine)	Hung Chun Hsieh

9/7 – 9/16	Canada	ESSC: (9/7-9) Edmonton, (9/14-16) Calgary	Joseph Jung
9/12 – 9/16		ESSC (Vancouver)	Derren Liang
9/14 – 9/16		ESSC (Montreal)	KM Huang
		ESSC (Kitchener Waterloo)	Canada CC
9/19 – 9/23		ESSC (Toronto)	Enoch Hou
9/28 – 10/28		(9/28-10/7) National Adult Theological Seminar/Pastoral Visit (Vancouver) (10/8-28) Bible Seminar (Edmonton/Calgary/Toronto)	FM Tse
9/11 – 9/17	Mexico	Pastoral Visitation	Ming Tao Kuo
9/11 – 9/12	UK	AMC Meeting (Leicester Church)	Africa ministry workers
9/14 – 10/1		TTP: OT History (III) - 1&2 Kings and 1&2 Chron	Steve Hwang
9/13 – 11/11		Training in local churches: (9/23-29) Preacher Seminar (Gifford Park) (9/30-10/1) National Marriage Counselor Training (Edinburgh) ESSC: (9/16-18) Edinburgh, (10/5-7) Forest Hill, (10/14-16) Leicester, (10/19-21) Portsmouth, (10/26-28) London	Yi Hsiung Chiu
9/5 – 9/9	Germany	ECC Youth Fellowship (Hamburg)	Steven Shek
9/21 – 9/23		Training & Special Service (Hamburg)	Johnny Liu
9/28 – 9/30		Autumn Spiritual Convocation (Rheinland)	Minh Ly

9/14—9/23	Russia	Pastoral Visitation/Spiritual Convocation	Jonathan Chou
9/17—11/26	South Africa	Pastoral ministry/Training/Botswana Pastoral Visit	Luke Chan
9/23—10/21	West Africa	Spiritual Cultivation/Workers Training (Ghana)	TK Chin

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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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