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Feature

Overcoming Adversity

Jia-Lin Ma

I. Preface

Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear. (2 Sam 23:20-21)

Benaiah bravely took action and overcame adversity by relying on God and grew in the most difficult environment because he knew that miracles will happen when there is no chance of winning.

II. Face Adversity with Courage

The opportunities God gives us are often like a roaring lion. The scariest lions are often the best opportunity.

Sometimes, what we believe to be an impossible environment is instead an opportunity to experience God's glory.

In our position, we must make the best of every opportunity and give it our all. A mature spiritual life is to see and hold on to opportunities given by God.

The more mature our spirituality is, the larger God will seem in our hearts. The larger God is, the smaller the lion will become.

III. Redefining Adversity

We often pray for comfort, not for a strong character. We pray for ways to escape rather than the strength to finish. We ask not to encounter adversity and receive nothing. If we pray to God to help us stay far away from holes and lions, and He answers our prayers, then this will take away our best opportunities.

Perhaps our problem is not the environment but our view of the environment. Maybe what we need to pray for is not to change our environment, but to change our perspective.

IV. Rely on the Environment God Created

Sometimes the smallest act of courage will change history.

Esther said, "If I die, then I die"; Nehemiah said, "And I said to the king, 'If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it.'" Daniel's three friends who refused to worship the Babylonian gods said, "We have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." Peter and John said, "For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

Esther saved the nation of Judah from being destroyed, Nehemiah rebuilt the wall of Jerusalem, Daniel's three friends allowed God's name to be praised, Peter and John could not and did not stay silent, which caused the gospel to spread.

Grab hold of the current situation and use the resources at hand to do the best we can. Every opportunity is a gift that God has wrapped inside difficulties. When we are willing to rely on God, the turning point will emerge.

Perhaps now is the moment to recognize the opportunity God has provided.
Perhaps now is the moment for us to act.

V. Conclusion

What kind of lion is God calling us to chase after?

Focus on this lion; why did God allow us to meet this lion? What lesson should we learn from this?

On a snowy day, do we have the courage to fight the angry lion or do we surrender to its violent attacks? In the Bible Benaiah was victorious over the lion.

What about us? Do we have the courage to pursue after the challenges God has given to us?
Let us chase after the lions in our lives! Perhaps we are facing the biggest difficulty in achieving

our dreams. Courageously answer God's calling in the midst of our biggest defeats and deepest fears.

Perhaps now is the time to seize the opportunity God has arranged. Come! Chase after the lions in our lives with courage!

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Church News

Current Status of the Divine Work in the UK

UKGA

The UKGA has been striving to increase the spiritual knowledge of the brethren and strengthen their ability to serve. As in previous years, we organised a number of national seminars and fellowships this year.

Pastoral and Evangelical Work

The national fellowships held this year included the Married Couples Fellowship (with 180 participants), Evergreen Fellowship (with 129 participants) and Sisters Fellowship (with 207 and 94 participants on the first and second day respectively). Thanks be to God that Elder Yung Ji Lin not only worked alongside with our UKGA preachers to provide training but also made pastoral visits to local churches during his two-month stay.



National Married Couples Fellowship

From early April onwards, each local church began holding their evangelical and spiritual convocations. Various evangelical events such as hymnal fellowships and outreaches, street leafleting as well as gospel open days were also arranged.

During the hot summer holidays, the National Student Spiritual Convocation was held in London and Leicester with 115 students attending. The RE Teacher Training held in Newcastle at the end of August was split into two classes this year—one for the current English-speaking teachers (66 attending) and the other for the Mandarin-speaking brethren (30 attending) assisting in RE in the places of worship.

Various Training

We thank God for His love and grace that the many national training courses held this year have gone smoothly, namely:

- (1) Africa Ministry Training Course — apart from the 30 UK brethren, there were 35 brothers and sisters from the US, Canada, Europe and South East Asia attending;
- (2) Youth Ministry Training — 63 youths from all over the country went to Sunderland to receive training on “Servitude and Mentorship”;



- (3) Adult Theological Training Class — this was held in two classes at Leicester Church with 50 participants attending;
- (4) Minister and Worker Spiritual Cultivation Seminar — an average number of 70 participants attended this three-day seminar held with the theme “Be a Faithful and Wise Servant”;
- (5) Youth Theological Training Course — the three-week course was held at Edinburgh Church and Sunderland Church. The number of participants was 65, including youths from abroad;
- (6) Literary Ministry Seminar — this workshop-based seminar was held in Newcastle with the theme “One True Church”. There were 36 members attending.

Overseas Ministry

The UKGA workers have been continuing to participate in the overseas ministry with the opportunities given by God. This year some were sent to visit Russia and South Africa to pastor local churches there. They were not only assigned to make pastoral visits to the countries in East Africa and West Africa and provide training there, but were also responsible for the evangelical and pastoral ministry in pioneering areas. Moreover, they assisted in the spiritual convocations and seminars held in the neighbouring continental Europe. May the Lord increase their strength so as to faithfully fulfil the mission entrusted by Him.



National Minister & Worker Seminar

Other Divine Works

At the end of 2017, the church delegate conference approved a project with Newcastle Church to jointly develop and construct the UKGA Building and a chapel on the Longbenton site in Newcastle. The UKGA intends to increase the space for parking by purchasing a piece of land adjoining the Longbenton site and discussions with the local council are ongoing. In addition, the first round of fundraising for the UKGA Building Project from local churches was also completed this May. We pray that the Lord bless and guide us to enable construction to begin soon.

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2018 Thailand Holy Work Status Report

Chi-Ming Huang

Thailand is a world-renowned Buddhist country with Buddhists accounting for more than 95% of the population. However, Thailand's laws do not designate a state religion and guarantees religious freedom. Thailand has a large population, abundant resources and simple folk customs, which attracts many immigrants from Europe, Asia, and North America (including a large number of illegal immigrants), forming a multi-cultural culture.



Bangkok Church Spiritual Convocation Service

In 1957, True Jesus Church was introduced to southern Thailand through West Malaysia and Hat-Yai church was established. In 1983, the gospel once again reached the central-northern area of Thailand and Phrankratai Church, Khao Khiao Prayer House, Chiangmai and Kui Buri service locations were established. In 1985, Deacon John, who converted to True Jesus Church from another denomination, moved to Bangkok and started evangelizing in his apartment. Bangkok established a prayer house in 1990. The Taiwan General Assembly started sending

workers to pastor and visit members starting in 1997. It then became Bangkok church in 2001 and the Thailand Coordinating Center was established. The gospel was preached to the Aka tribe in northern Thailand in 2004 and became Xian Jai Mai Prayer House. In 2005, Likai Church was established. In 2008, Maemor Church was established. Starting from 2009, northern Thailand was pastored by pastors and elders from Malaysia sent from the Eastern Evangelical Department of I.A. Since 2012, Taiwan G.A. has sent pastors to reside in northern Thailand until today. “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? For we are God’s fellow workers” (1 Cor 3:5, 9).



Khao Khiao & Phrankratai Joint Church Spiritual Convocation Service

It is difficult to pastor members due to the distance between the churches in northern and southern Thailand. The rural areas are even more lacking in pastors and spiritual food. The believers have been spiritually hungry for a long time, which causes slow spiritual growth and even an increase in inactive members. The central and northern regions of Thailand have limited educational resources and lack job opportunities. This forces the youths to look for opportunities away from their hometowns and leave the elderly and the youngsters behind. The youths that have moved away for a living are also lacking in spiritual support. Therefore, their hearts and thoughts gradually assimilate with the world. Also, the jobs they find are usually manual labor, which means missing Sabbath services and drawing close to God, causing them to gradually lose their faith. Many live far away from the church making visitation difficult due to poor transportation. The dwindling faith and spiritual life of members and the future of the church are worrying.



Likai Spiritual Convocation



Bangkok Church Parenting Outing



Youths of Northern Thailand work in Bangkok

In 2014, northern Thailand established Mesai Student Center to aide the rural children and youths in receiving a better education and raising their abilities and the quality of life. Taiwan's Dorcas Love Fellowship gathered a group of volunteer Chinese teachers to increase the growth and learning of the children with Bible truths through teaching Chinese. Through these methods the hope is that the children will carry out the mission of the revival and growth of the gospel in Thailand. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase" (1 Cor 3:6-7).

In the fifties and sixties Thai government policy forbade speaking Chinese. This caused a halt of all holy work in Thailand. However, beginning in the twenty-first century, Thailand allowed the restoration of Chinese education and attracted many Chinese to Thailand. This was no doubt the door opening for preaching the truth. We must hold on to this great opportunity and proactively preach the wonderful salvation of Jesus to those tens of thousands of brethren who have yet to know the gospel (Thailand's population is 14% Chinese).

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says, "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have

helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Cor 6:1-2)

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 **Intercession**

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
10/5-10/28	Malaysia	Residential Pastoral & National Malay Speaking Spiritual Convocation(North/Perak/Central/South)	Erastus Yata
10/12-10/22		Marriage Counseling	Rong Rong Huang
10/25-11/19		Regional Pastoral & Regional Spiritual Convocation(North/Perak/Central/South)	Yao Chen Wang
10/1-10/14	Australia	Bible Camp(Sydney)	Ezra Chong
10/5-10/28	New Zealand	Pastoral	JG Tsai
9/27-10/8	Fiji	Fiji Pastoral	Preacher of EHDWM
10/9-10/15	Tonga	Tonga Pastoral	Preacher of EHDWM
10/16-10/22	Samoa	Samoa Pastoral	Preacher of EHDWM
10/17-10/29	Cambodia	Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation	Hsin Yi Yao
10/3-11/29	Thailand	Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation	Jian Guang Chen

10/4-10/7	US	Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation(San Jose)	Tony Kuo
10/12-10/14		Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation(Seattle)	Timothy Yeung
10/2-11/16	UK	Theological Training Program	Sheng Chuan Chen/ Ezra Chang (Malaysia)
10/19-10/21	Austria	Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation(Vienna)	FF Chong
October	Spain	Visit & Concern(Madrid/Albacete/Barcelona)	BQ Wang
Oct./Nov.	Greek	Spiritual Convocation/Member Visit & Concern	CJ Hsieh/ BQ Wang
10/21-11/18	West Africa	Workers Training(Ghana)	FF Chong
10/19~10/28	Mauritania	Pastoral Visit/Care	Johnny Liu/ Silas Chan
10/10-10/29	Argentina	Evangelical Service & Spiritual Convocation	Samuel Kuo
10/25-10/30	Bolivia	Evangelical & Pastoral and Training	Cheng Ming Chu
10/21-10/29	Mexico	Pastoral Visitation	Chun Hung Chou

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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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International Assembly of True Jesus Church © 2018
Tel: 886-4-2243-6960 Fax: 886-4-2243-7046
Address: No. 180 Songjhu Road, Taichung City 40673, Taiwan
E-mail: ia@tjc.org.tw
Web: www.tjc.org
Members.tjc.org