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Feature

He Who Has Prepared Us Is God

HCH

He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. (2Cor 5:5)

God has prepared us an eternal house in the heavens. This house is like a cloth. By putting this cloth on, we may not be found naked but obtain glory when the tent which is our earthly home (flesh) is destroyed. God also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee, which helps us to keep the hope of heavenly kingdom until the coming of the Lord (Ref. 2Cor 5:1-4).

From another perspective, if we want to obtain the glory prepared by God, we need to ask God to help us in making a determination, so that we may be worthy of receiving what He has prepared for us. I would like to share two types of preparation through Paul's view recorded in 2 Cor 5:5-10.

First, be of good courage

Paul asked God to prepare him with good courage to perceive two things:

1. Being at home in the body is away from the Lord (2 Cor 5:6)
2. Being away from the body is at home with the Lord (2 Cor 5:8)

Being at home in the body means putting all our focus on the needs of the earthly matters and fleshly desires and find all means to decorate and fill up the temporary tent; but this way of living will be very hard for man to touch God. To experience God's abidance, with all our minds, we need to apply the teachings of the Lord from the Bible in the things we do and the decisions we make. In other words, we should set our minds on things that are above (cf: Col 3:2).

Paul also stated that the reason why we can set our minds on things that are above is that we walk by faith, not by sight (cf. 2 Cor 5:7). If we only walk by sight, we will just pursue the tent on the ground and can't be free from it; as the clothes in the world are attractive, it is hard to take them off. But if we look at things with faith, we will understand that the tents of the world are only temporary, narrow and fragile, and living in tents is only a process, not the final outcome of life. Because the things that are seen are temporary, but the things that are unseen are forever (cf. 2 Cor 4:18). Therefore, "**by faith**" is the way to leave our body, to transcend the worldly tents, and to pursue for living with the Lord.

It is very important for us to have such understanding, and we need to practice it in our lives, so that it will not be just a theory but instead, a help to us. Our Father in heaven knows that it is hard for us to do it, so while preparing us. He also grants the Holy Spirit to us as guarantee. Through the Holy Spirit, we are able to open our eyes and see the invisible value and meanings of life, so we would have a right judgment to pursue the eternal things.

Therefore, we must pray to God to prepare us to have courage. Although we are in the flesh, we have the desire to pursue living with the Lord with all our hearts.

Second, the determination of pleasing the Lord

We should learn from Paul to set our direction and goal for "pleasing the Lord" in everything we do (cf. 2 Cor 5:9). Paul knew that only by pleasing the Lord can we receive the heavenly inheritance that God has prepared for us. Therefore, he reminded Timothy of the importance of pleasing the Lord: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved (cf. 2 Timothy 2:15).

To please the Lord, first we need to discern what are the things pleasing to the Lord (cf. Eph 5:10). Therefore, Paul constantly prayed for the believers and hoped that everyone would fully

understand God's special will in each person, so the believers would please the Lord in their daily life by what they say and do.

Although God has different wills for each individual, there is a common goal toward us, which is seeing God's teaching through the will of God in the Lord Jesus.

The Lord Jesus prayed to the Father in heaven:

I have accomplished the work that You gave me to do (Jn 17:4).

I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave me out of the world (Jn 17:6).

Therefore, spreading the word of God and the name of God is God's will in the Lord Jesus, which is God's salvation and is God's will for each of us. If we are doing things relating to preaching the gospel and preaching the name of God, then we are doing the will of God, and we please the Lord.

Conclusion

At the beginning of 2019, we sincerely thank God for preparing and cultivating us, and we pray that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have courage and determination to please the Lord, by examining God's will and understanding His will upon us, so that we would walk the journey of preaching the gospel and accomplish the work pleasing the Lord and that we will see the Lord in the future with confidence.

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 [Church News](#)

West Malaysia GA Holy Work Update

Isaiah Chang

Overview

After reminiscing about the divine grace that established and abided with the True Jesus Church (TJC) over the last century, there is still much to do in the years ahead. There are currently just 28 Churches, 4 Prayer Houses, 8 Evangelical Centers and 5 Pioneer Areas (indigenous people districts) in the 4 regions (North, Perak, Central, South) of Peninsula Malaysia. West Malaysia's membership stands at 3539, the growth rate of 4.3% seen this year is driven by

conversion (2.6%) and migration (1.7%). Though the gospel has been preached in this peninsula since 1926, the outreach journey has not been easy.

The current 10 (1 was just ordained in Nov 2018) full-time preachers pastor an average of 2-3 churches per person, besides assisting in overseas assignments. Through the National Reserves Volunteer program, inter-church and inter-region arrangements, manpower resources (brothers and deacons) are channeled to smaller churches (when their residential preachers are on overseas assignments) and regions requiring assistance.

Outreach to Indigenous People

In recent years, work in the Perak region has been largely focused on evangelism. One such area is the Cameron Highlands, a district comprising sub-districts located at elevations ranging from 800 to 1,603 metres above sea level. This district is home to the indigenous Semai tribe. The first phase of work led to the establishment of West Malaysia's first church for the indigenous people. In 2017, the General Assembly (GA) bought a two-story apartment in Cameron Highlands to house volunteers and workers sent to assist in the work of outreach to the indigenous people, in addition to conducting services and evangelical programs for the indigenous people. In December of the same year, Malaysia's Education Affairs division started the first Native Counselling program to improve the academic standards, living skills and bible knowledge of the indigenous children. Volunteers were specially roped in to design learning modules. In November 2018, the first indigenous brother was ordained as a deacon. In December 2018, a second indigenous people church in Pengkalan Hulu, a Malaysian town located near the Malaysia-Thailand border, will be dedicated to the Lord. To further drive this outreach work in the indigenous people districts, Malaysia has requested TJC Indonesia's assistance in sending over preachers.



Tapah Batu Church

Future Challenges and Work

Malaysia is a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic country. Unsurprisingly, pastoral needs among our Chinese, Indian, and Malay-speaking indigenous (both inter-state migrants from Sabah as well as locals) members are highly diverse. Nevertheless, by God's grace, TJC's of Taiwan, Sabah and India have been extremely supportive in sending workers to help in pastoral and training work in West Malaysia.

Marriage in the Lord continues to be a challenge. On the one hand, we need to continue to emphasize the importance of this as we are seeing an increasing number of members' preferences of non-believer over believers. There are also believers who are ready to marry in the Lord but cannot find a suitable partner. This challenge is intensified for our believers from some smaller ethnic groups. Within these smaller sub-populations of indigenous and Indian believers it is a challenge to find potential spouses who is not a blood relative. Believers from the bigger ethnic group are not ready to accept such inter-racial unions. Nevertheless, good marriages are critical as they underpin strong family units which, in turn, determine the health of the Church. GA West Malaysia has identified a group of Marriage Facilitators to care for those who are of marriageable age and is separately training another group of Marriage Counsellors to help married couples strengthen their relationships, as we are aware of worrying issues in their marriages.

Consistent with the worldwide TJC focus on feeding the flock appropriately, GA West Malaysia has now started up its Little Wheat bookshop to bring useful publications to believers. It is also trying to improve pulpit ministry through strategies such as mentoring of potential sermon speakers, training up more female workers to care for the needs of the sisters and children, and so on.

Praise & thank God, Malaysia General Assembly has currently 1 Chinese-speaking brother in Taiwan TTP Seminary and 1 Malay-speaking brother in Sabah TTP Seminary.



Ordination of Pr Nehemiah Ooi & Family of Pr Nehemiah Oo



Ordination of Dn. Petrus Man

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Church News

News Report on the Current Situation in India

Statistics

1. Number of Churches - 14 Churches; 4 Prayer House; 5 Places of Worship
2. Number of Believers - 1528
3. Number of Ministers - 10 Deacons, 4 Deaconesses; 5 Preachers
4. Number of REU students - about 465 (with 40 Teachers)

Organization:

India Coordination Board (ICB) remains weak; however, we can say that they have come to a certain level of maturity in administration and decision making. We hope to see the churches giving more support to them.

Pastoral & Evangelical

India Mission Committee members and volunteers made five visits to India. Pastoral & evangelical works were carried out by the local churches with support from ICB.

Although their plans and system may not seem to be good, but they are not lacking in the spirit. Visiting & concern for its members are what the churches have been doing.

Evangelism is in the heart of the church and its members. It is just part of their life to testify of

Christ. 94 were baptized (6.55%) for the year 2017-2018.

Youths & Educational Affairs

We have been spending a lot of efforts in the development of children and youths for the past 20 years with a hope that we will have a local generation of capable and spiritual members who will be able to take over the responsibility of the ministry in India.

We thank God, we were able to set up systems and pass on some of the development work to the local churches. The National India Youth Committee has been set up and recently they have organized the 1st National Youth Spiritual Meeting attended by about 150 people.

Training and Spiritual Nurture and Cultivation

Training and Spiritual Nurture and Cultivation remains the main aspect of our work in India.



India ICB EXCO Spiritual Nurture in 2018

Financial

This year, India Coordination Board is responsible for 100% of the Training Center maintenance cost, 50% of STTC Training expanses & 50% of the preachers' and full-time workers living allowance. However, the ICB is still financially weak. They are not able to fulfill their financial commitment presently, especially the 50% of the Preacher's and Full-Time workers living allowance. Though some local churches can be financially self-sufficient but their support to ICB is weak. Most look into their own needs above that of ICB. But we must

say they have spent their finances in divine work as well. We hope after the local churches have settled their own needs, they will give strong support to ICB.

Pioneering work in North India.

We have been visiting NE India for some time. Prospects changed from time to time. We have identified that this is because we do not have a worship point & resident leaders. Our infrequent visit added to the problem as well. Despite what had been said, we have had our first baptism there.

West Bengal

In Kolkata, evangelism is carried out with a Bengali family and we are continuing contact with the Chinese community at the China-Town. We are utilizing the assistance of volunteer workers for the work in these pioneering areas. The volunteers will continue to communicate with them through Facebook

Imphal, Manipur

Contact with Ps. Alexander started 8 years ago.

Quite a prominent man in Imphal. A Pastor, a business man, a community figure. He is always with governor, ministers, legislative people etc. He and his family were baptized. IMC to look into how to pastor this new flock. To look into matters brought up by Alexander: Church building, Church registration, issues on place for burial, his status and allowance and etc. He wants to advance the TJC's gospel to Nagaland, Assam, etc.



First Baptism in Imphal, India in 2018



Footwashing in Imphal, India in 2018

North India

We have some members from the south who have moved to Delhi & Bombay. We hope to be able to organize ourselves to look into pioneering into these areas as well.

Church Building

Perambakkam Church new building is being constructed.

Pammal Church dedicated the new RE Hall to the Lord on 7th October.



2018 Dedication service of Pammal Church in RE Hall

 **Intercession**

1. Please pray for IA work assignment as below:

Date	Location	Program	Personnel
1/14-1/20	Australia	Pastoral visit/STTTC Lecturer (Perth – Dianella & Cannington/Sydney)	Joel Chong/ Peter Shee/ Barnabas Chong
1/4-1/27	Japan	Short-term Residential	Ying Chu Lee
1/14-2/10	US	e-Learning Project	HH Ko
1/1-1/3	Greece	Member Visit & Concern (Athens)	Enoch Hou
1/6-1/31	Argentina	Short-Term Theological Class/ Student Spiritual Convocation(E2, J1, J2)/ RE Teacher Seminar & Workshop	Samuel Kuo/ Patricia Chen/ CM Chu
1/6-1/11	UK	Africa Ministry Training Course/ AMC Meeting(London)	HH Ko/ Steve Hwang/ Africa Ministry Workers
1/12-1/13	France	Pastoral Visitation	Steve Hwang
1/4-1/14	Spain	Visit & Concern (Madrid/Albacete/Barcelona)	Enoch Hou
1/4-1/6	Hungary	Evangelism/Workers Training (Budapest)	HH Ko
12/26-1/13	Russia	Pastoral Visitation/Spiritual Convocation	Timothy Yeung
1/9-1/29	South Africa	Spiritual Convocation/Pastoral Visitation/Visit Members (Johannesburg/Cape Town)	Steve Hwang/ Fu Ming Tse
1/6-2/25			John Huang
1/13-1/21	Mexico	Pastoral Work	Shawn 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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