

True Jesus Church  
UKGA Newsletter

The 54<sup>th</sup> Edition

Go into all the world and preach the gospel (Mark 16:15)

May 2011

## Thoughts on the Church Elections

Deaconess Lydia Chan, Elgin

The members of the 2011–2013 Elgin Church Board were elected smoothly at the annual general meeting on 31st October 2010. Thereafter, two church delegates were elected to attend the Church Delegates Conference and to share in the works of the UKGA.

On that day, the meeting lasted for three and a half hours. All brethren attended, adults and children, harmoniously participated in the whole proceedings and listened attentively to the reports delivered by the three departmental officers. Everyone showed concern about the affairs of the church by expressing his or her valuable opinions and raising questions, to which the officers were prompt to reply. The meeting was like a family gathering, with children like olive plants around the table (Ps 128:1–5). With reference to the election of the apostolic church, we elected by ballot seven church board members to deal with the various affairs of the church (Acts 6:2–4).

Furthermore, the purple flower arrangement, specially designed by Sister May Ho, leader of the Flower Arrangement Team, was definitely a focal point in the venue of the meeting. Coincidentally, Deacon Silas Chan, the chairman of the meeting, and Brother John Leung, the interpreter, had both dressed in purple ties and shirts. When looking at the pulpit, these elements formed an elegant and beautiful picture.

Purple is muted and not eye-catching. It can be seen as an emblem of the elevated essence of dignity, beauty and glory, which makes it an extraordinary colour. Purple is a mixture of blue and red; I associate the colour purple with the Lord Jesus, who has redeemed us at a price, with His precious blood (1 Cor 6:20; Acts 20:28). As the righteous Job said, "What is man, that You should exalt him, that You should set Your heart on him?" (Job 7:17).

Accordingly, we have to live as Christ did and let Christ live in us (Gal 2:20). Whatever we do in service, in speech and in conduct, Christ will always be exalted in our bodies, whether by life or by death.

*Give of your best to the Master, give of the strength of your youth;  
Clad in salvation's full armour, join in the battle for truth.*

## An Ordination's Message

Preacher FF Chong, London

The atmosphere in the fully packed chapel of the True Jesus Church in Newcastle on 21st November 2010 was one of great joy. There were many greetings and much sharing amongst the brethren in Christ prior to the commencement of the service to witness the ordination of Brother Johnny Liu. Yet, the atmosphere was one of solemnity as well, which was reflected in the record number of brethren in attendance from other parts of the country.

Offering oneself upon the altar of the Lord as a worker requires great resolve and complete dedication. It is a decision worthy of utmost commendation and respect. However, the journey ahead after such a decision could never be more challenging; it either enhances or disintegrates one's faith.

**To self-demand:** A full-time or busy holy worker is often inundated with matters of the faith community and is consigned to follow a tight schedule of holy work. Therefore, it has often proved too huge a task for the same worker to also be inward-searching, and truthful in his self-assessment. But serving God is not just about doing what is entrusted. Rather it is about being approved by God in the course of rendering (1 Thess 2:4) with faithfulness. For He is always there to test the heart, looking for a pure motive and desiring His workforce to exhibit His virtues in their service to Him.

If one endeavours to figure out the will of God when embarking on divine work for the church, this self-demand guides the heart in a spiritual direction. The effect of such a self-imposition cannot be more pleasing to God as one becomes an example in service, being witnessed by the church as a whole. Devoutly serving the church becomes easily recognised by the community (1 Thess 2:10). When the heart is in the right place, work is obviously done in justice and righteousness; only then is one blameless before God.

**To be humble:** To serve well, one has to follow Christ's example in His work on earth. The great strength of Christ lies with His humility. He was able to take on the image of a servant, and suffer a sacrificial death (Phil 2:5ff). His ability to submit to the divine plan causes the Father to love Him still more (Jn 10:17f). Christ was ostracised and considered to be the greatest criminal ever by the Jewish society of His time; in the eyes of the world, He deserved to be put to death. However, Christ's death is the greatest piece of work God has ever achieved through Him, as it accomplished His plan to save.

In most cases, one can easily become the centre of attention when doing God's work. This is more so when charisma has shone forth in one's work. Inevitably, desiring constant rounds of applause tends to fuse inextricably into one's emotional make-up, making the heart swell up out of proportion. What was once sincerity and faithfulness is supplanted with the will to impress above all else. Being unable to see what is good for the church, work is rendered with partiality, discrimination and pride. This is utterly detrimental to the growth of the church.

**To listen to others:** The danger cannot be greater than when pride rules the heart. The natural consequence is to put oneself above all others, especially after years of serving God. The "Elijah-in-the-cave" syndrome constantly emerges, where one fails to see that God is using others as much as or even more than oneself. If this attitude remains unchecked, it can eventually lead to one being deceived into believing that one is the saviour of the church, or the only chosen of God to completely overhaul the existing ecclesiastical setup. With such a frame of mind, one does not and indeed cannot bring oneself to



UKGA board members, deacons and preachers

### 'one must be patient, steadfastly waiting for the Lord in unceasing prayers to God.'

appreciate any excellence in service from others, turning a deaf ear to every sound advice.

The fact that Jesus gave a listening ear to the instructions of the Father has a great deal to do with His mentality (Isa 50:4f). His heart was well cultivated. Likewise, keeping the heart with all diligence is requisite to listening to others. Holy work is not to be done by a single individual or a small group alone—it needs collective effort. God has given each worker a measure of wisdom: when put together, their collective wisdom forms the direction of His work. The manifold wisdom that God has bestowed to His church (Eph. 3:10) shall fully be understood and acted upon when we listen to each other in the fear of the Lord.

**To pursue unity:** The knowledge that workers are interdependent fine-tunes the heart to pursue unity with ardent fervency. The unity the church pursues ensures growth, and comes from the Holy Spirit. For that reason, Paul teaches that holy work is to be done with a clear intent to maintain the unity of the church at all costs (Eph 4:3). Since the church exists in the Spirit, who fills individual workers, the church must rely on the Holy Spirit to attain to standing in unity. This is crucial for her to perpetuate the commissions entrusted.

The church is deprived of her stability and assurance from the Lord when she is thrown into disarray by factious workers, who are unwilling to patch up differences. The desire to disregard unity stems from many factors. One is the instinctive response, say, to a "horrendous practice" in the church. Instead of thinking calmly, in reverence, of how best this wrong can be stopped and put right, the mind is dragged into a cycle of frustration and anger; in no way can the righteousness of God be achieved through this mindset. Segregation from the "unrefined worker" becomes inevitable. The result is one of greater confusion and further disunity.

To take a step back and pray: It is necessary for a worker to withdraw from difficult situations such as this, so that the mind can be freed from any encumbrance. This is in no way an easy task. Controlling the inner being cannot be harder if it is swept back and forth by the lingering waves of negative thoughts. The mind is highly susceptible to being unsettled by unpleasant events. Once it is troubled, it becomes extremely difficult to come to a swift and amicable agreement

between conflicting parties, which further unsettles unresolved matters.

To take a step back is not to run away from problems. Rather, it is a courageous and advisable step forward in raising our level of spirituality, which is needed to stop years of cultivation being washed down the drain in a moment of madness. Taking a step back allows one to enter into prayers with a view to solicit divine help from the supply of the Spirit (cf. Phil 1:19; Eph 6:18). The help must first be rendered upon the one who is offering prayers. With a desire focused on fulfilling the purpose of God above all else, one is given wisdom to continue to serve with the right perspective, in the midst of problems.

**To defend the truth:** One major problem in particular that one shall face is the issue of heresy. This is the most daunting task that the church faces. To combat heretic infiltration is not only time consuming, it is also extremely mentally draining. Being conversant with the word of God and rooted in the beliefs of the church is inescapably essential for one to stand firm in time of heretic incursion. It is imperative to know that the word of God is not given to change, for God is unchanging (Heb 13:8f).

As well as discernment, sacrifice is sometimes required to combat against heresy. The finger of suspicion can be turned round to point at one person, when he tries to correct a twisted teaching. At worst, he could be branded as a troublemaker obsessed with fighting "trivial issues". To stand against relentless fiery attacks from false teachers, one must be patient, steadfastly waiting for the Lord in unceasing prayers to God. Most important of all, one must not be intimidated into not speaking the truth for the good of the church (Tit 1:13; 2:15; 3:10) when the going gets tougher and tougher...

As the sermon was drawing to a close, the congregation was well aware of the unnerving task ahead of this new soldier of Christ. It is the practice of the church that the brethren offer unceasing prayers for the frontline workers, which is very encouraging and uplifting. As the battle for the Lord is nearing its most critical phase, the church should all the more offer concerted prayer, so that the ploys of the evil one can be identified and rendered ineffective against the purpose of God, to ensure that the church is eventually built up for His glory.

# The 1st Church Delegates Conference of the 9th Term Board Meeting Minutes

<b>Present: Elgin</b>	Silas Chan	Danny Chan	Michael Hsu	Gideon Ho	Jimmy Chan
<b>Edinburgh</b>	Chung Pok Chan	Ling Tao Shek	Ah Yi Ho	Clifford Shek	
<b>Gifford Park</b>	Chung Sing Chan	Thomas Chan	Wai Kee Ng	Simon Ho	Johnny Liu
<b>Newcastle</b>	John Ho	James Tang	Anthony S.M. Tang	Eddie YF Chan	
	Stephen Ho	William Ho	David Ho		
<b>Sunderland</b>	Isaac ST Chan	David Ho	Tony KW Ho		
<b>Leicester</b>	Luke Chan	Edmund Kwok	Haggai Liu		
<b>London</b>	Kon Fah Chong	Kenneth Zhou	Hazel Loo		
<b>Portsmouth</b>	Michael Cheung	Tony WY Ho			
<b>Cambridge</b>	Vincent Yeung				

**Absent with apologies:**

<b>Present by invitation:</b>	Joseph Shek	TK Chin	FF Chong
	Steven Shek	Michael Chan	Johnny Liu
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Thomas Chan		
<b>Minute-taker:</b>	Eric Liu		

**Date:** 23 November 2010  
**Time:** 8.30 am to 8.30 pm  
**Venue:** Newcastle True Jesus Church

**(I) Meeting begins in the name of the Lord Jesus****(II) Election of the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the ninth CDC meeting**

Chairperson of the meeting: Silas Chan.  
 Vice-chairperson: Luke Chan

**(III) Hymn 416****(IV) Prayer****(V) Chairperson:**

Thanks be to God that we are able to hold the 1st UK Church Delegates Conference of the ninth term today; I welcome all the delegates and preachers who are attending this meeting. UKGA Secretary James Lin was admitted to hospital yesterday, so we shall all pray for his speedy recovery. "Let us return our hearts to God" is the theme of our discussion this afternoon. I hope that every leader can be a good example and return his heart to God first, in order to help other members to do the same. In Psalm 16:1-2, David prays to God for His protection and a heart to rely on Him. This reminds us that only when we put God in the centre of our lives can we lead the church and the members to root their faith. 2 Cor10:3-5 encourages us not to wage war according to our flesh. Therefore, we need to help our members to return their hearts to the Lord. May God guide all of our future works.

**(VI) Review of the action list of previous meeting**

The chairman suggested that once the UKGA by-laws and Standing Rules and Regulations are translated, each church delegate should have a copy and each local church library should have two copies for reference.

The RA department explained the reasons why the number of participants of the Evergreen Fellowship was decreasing. The reasons are:

- Personal health problems.
- Accompanying the family to holidays.
- Visiting relatives in Hong Kong.
- Inconvenience of travel.

Child protection policy: Brother Michael Hsu suggests that we follow in the footsteps of Leicester Church.

The FA department suggests each local church should register as a charity organisation or a religious institute as soon as possible.

The aim of religious education for every all ages is to increase knowledge of the Bible and enhance application of the teachings;

we should continue to learn lessons throughout our lives. It is hoped that each local church can promote this education.

**(VII) Annual UKGA departmental reports (2009/2010)**

Chairperson: Silas Chan (written report)

Religious Affairs Officer:

Luke Chan (written report)

General Affairs Officer: Thomas Chan (written report)

Religious Education Officer: Michael Hsu (written report)

Literary Ministry Officer: Vincent Yeung (written report)

Financial Affairs Officer: Ling Tao Shek (written and verbal report)

The auditors, Haggai Liu and Denny Chan, confirmed that they have audited the 2009/2010 financial statements of income and expenditure, and found them to be correct.

**(VIII) Status report of UK churches**

Refer to UKGA Annual Report.

**(IX) Deliberation of proposals**

*Proposal 1: To recruit an additional full-time preacher in 2011.*

Rationale: Firstly, the UK is a large area to take care of, and secondly, cultivating the workers needs time.

Method: If this proposal is passed by the CDC, UKGA will send out letters to local churches for open recruitment.

Resolution: Passed by thirty votes.

*Proposal 2: To revise articles regarding the UK Standing Rules and Regulations about vote-counting and voting results (proposed by UKGA).*

The following articles have been amended:

Article 9: Those attending and present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the General Meeting to proceed. Resolutions in general shall be passed with an affirmative vote of majority (more than half), whereas more than a two-thirds majority vote shall be required for approval of any matter deemed important.

Article 29: Those representatives attending and present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the Church Delegates Conference to proceed. Resolutions in general shall be passed with an affirmative vote of majority (more than half), whereas more than a two-thirds majority vote shall be required for approval of any matter deemed important.

Article 33: The members attending and present and entitled to vote shall constitute

a quorum for the UKGA Board Meeting to proceed. Resolutions in general shall be passed with an affirmative vote of majority (more than half), whereas more than a two-thirds majority vote shall be required for approval of any matter deemed important.

Resolution: Amendments passed.

*Proposal 3: To approve the Income and Expenditure Statements of UKGA for 2009/2010 (proposed by UKGA).*

Report: UKGA 2009/2010 Financial Statement

Income: £229,587.46

Expenditure: £243,823.04.

Resolution: Unanimously passed.

*Proposal 4: To approve the UKGA budget for Year 2010 (Proposed by UKGA)*

Suggestion: UKGA 2011 Financial Budget

Income: £229,600.00

Expenditure: £243,100.00

Resolution: Unanimously Passed.

**(X) Election of UKGA Board Members of the 9th Term**

There are eight Ex-Officio Delegates from eight churches. The rest of the seven board members will be elected from the church delegates (thirty-two delegates in total).

Outcome of election: Michael Hsu, Lin Tao Shek, Vincent Yeung, James Tang, Simon Ho, Kenneth Zhou and Tony KW Ho were elected to also be members of the UKGA Board. The following are stand-bys: Chung Sing Chan, Haggai Liu, Gideon Ho and Anthony Tang. Elected UKGA Auditors: Johnny Liu and Denny Chan.

**(XI) Special Motions**

Delegates urged UKGA to sort out the issue of local church membership numbers. The Chairperson suggested that the GA department of UKGA should find out the actual facts about:

- The current status of all UK places of worship;
- Membership numbers of China brethren;
- Membership transfer procedures of each local church (in and out).

Resolution: The suggestions were passed.

**(XII) Any other business**

Discussion theme: "How to help church members to root their faith and return their hearts to God?"

**Report from Preacher Steven Shek:**

As the shepherds of our church, it is our

responsibility to help members to root their faith and return their hearts to God. However, if we want to reach this goal, we ourselves need to become examples to the members, because they can see the behaviour and speech of the shepherds whether in the family or in church or in society. Members will see and remember our every move.

Our life of faith must rely on prayer and God's word. Therefore, we need to have regular spiritual cultivation in our daily life. Our faith needs to be expressed throughout our life, and we need to utilise our time wisely to concentrate on spiritual cultivation. Unfortunately, most of our time and energy is wasted on godless myths which are not worth telling. We need to train ourselves up in the way of godliness, through daily prayers, Bible study, attending church services regularly and reading spiritual books. Cultivating our spirituality will bring promise to this life and to our future life also, so we must do this every day. The Bible says we need to instruct others and teach others in this way.

Prayer is communication between man and God; it is also a way by which man asks God for help, and receives the inspiration of God's Spirit. If we do not pray, our relationship with God will be cut off. The more we believe in God and the more we pray, the more we will be moved by Him. Then we will return to Him and find peace in Him. So a prayerful life is important if we are to return our hearts to God. We need to concentrate on prayer every day, no matter what happens or how busy we are. We need to pray regularly, every day, in the same way that we need food every day. If we can enjoy the prayer in Spirit, we will not be disturbed by our surroundings, no matter what they may be.

We need to be a positive testimony before other people, so that they can come to know Jesus through us. Jesus walked among the crowd and cared for them, and was close to His flock. We should therefore take Jesus as our example, observe the commandments and practise them, so that we can establish mutual trust and mutual help among members.

**Report from Brother Michael Hsu:**  
 If we want to try and root the members' faith and help them return to God, first we need to ask: Who am I? This is a simple question, but one that many people cannot answer. As a matter of fact, many people do not recognise their true existence; we are living in a complicated society in which all kinds of distraction confuse the

senses, causing a conflict between reality and what we perceive as reality. We only recognise or know ourselves superficially; we do not know ourselves on a deeper level. Therefore, in order to be a leader, we first need to learn to recognise and know ourselves deeper. Though the shepherd has been entrusted with a mission, if he does not understand his responsibility, he cannot concentrate on the advancement of his own spirituality and become a good example to other members. Therefore, it is important for us to know ourselves first, to find the true "I", before we can help others to root their faith and return their hearts to God. How are we to know ourselves? "I am my daughter's father", "I am a deacon", "I am a preacher", etc. If we do not know our own value and worth, we will be cast out from heaven. All kinds of noble titles cannot help us to enter the heavenly kingdom; therefore everyone needs to think of the meaning of their existence. Maybe we think we are very good, but let us not forget that it is our good deeds and our offerings that are recorded by the angels, not our titles or our achievements.

So what we need to do is to love and believe in God, and to nurture our members' growth in faith. To love God means that we return our hearts to Him first, to touch God with our hearts and maintain a close communication and fellowship with Him. We need to attend services fervently, lead a prayerful life, always remember the love of God and live in His word, so that our hearts will not be occupied by our own lusts or materialism. Consider God's will wholeheartedly, and submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our works. The Holy Spirit will lead our hearts from focusing on the physical environment to the word of God. Let us believe that God's word is sure and true, so that we are willing to be led by Him and to follow His will. This is what it means to return our hearts to God. Members need an example to follow, so if we can become an example, the members will gradually root their faith and return their hearts to God.

**Encouragements from other delegates and preachers:**

Confucius says, "If a leader acts justly, his followers will do the same without the need for any instructions. On the other hand, if a leader does not act justly, even when there are strict law and order, people will still not obey." This is why a shepherd should first be a good example. The actions of a shepherd or a leader are very important, because if he forbids others from doing something, he must gain their trust by first following his own ruling. A leader should lead others by his own virtues and not by force; the influence and authority of a leader are not predicated on his position or status, but on his inner virtues and spiritual wisdom. Through his spiritual influence he can lead and guide those around him to return their hearts to God.

In order to guide others back to God, our family is an important source of support and will be testimony to us. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua expresses this resolution: "...But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." There is a proverb which says that charity begins at home. That is why 1 Timothy chapter 3 states, as one of the requirements of deacons, overseers and elders, that they should manage their own family and children well, so that their family is a good testimony to them. They also need to be able to first help their own family members before they can help others. If a leader is only fit to be praised by outsiders, but is criticised by his own family members in his daily life, then this person will not please God. This is especially true in his spiritual life, in which he needs to be a good example for his family. He must also be supported by his family members as they worship God in unity, so that he can worship God effectively and serve Him in strength.

A leader should keep God's words in his heart at all times, teaching them to his children diligently. Raising children in the faith is very important, so we should apply God's word in the daily life of our family. We need to communicate with them using God's word, combining our faith with our

family life, establishing a family altar and having regular family services.

Therefore, we need to resolve to fight the good fight for the Lord, because in whatever we do God is working in our hearts to accomplish His good will. No matter what our task, we should not murmur or argue, so that we can become blameless and truthful children of God in this crooked generation. As servants of God, we should remember that He not only wants the church to grow in number but also that the members grow in faith.

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Heb 12:28). One must begin with a heart of thanksgiving before he gives his golden years to God, without losing his mind through the praises of man; only then can he overcome the devil and still worship God wholeheartedly. Teaching the members to observe the truth is also very important. Paul wrote many letters to the church encouraging them in the same way that he encouraged Timothy and Titus: to not only accept his good teachings, but to also preach them and spread the truth faithfully (1 Tim 4:11; 2 Tim 2:15; Tit 2:15).

A shepherd should walk in front of the fold: he should come to church earlier and lead the prayer before service starts. He should attend all services and Bible studies. The Adult Theological Training Course is further spiritual training for us, so we should make every determination to attend this seminar in full, and be an example for others. Everyone can take hold of this kind of opportunity to accomplish great things through being good examples in the small things.

If we are willing to do these small things for God today, we can obtain God's glorious blessing in the future. Let us all return to our heavenly Father and pursue a closer relationship with Him. Jesus says: "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father and I lay down My life for the sheep" (Jn 10:14-15).

Our Lord Jesus takes good care of the flock and is responsible to them to the end. He knows every sheep and cares for them.

Therefore, if we want to care for the fold, we need to have a caring heart. This means that our hearts must know the feelings of our sheep so that we can give them proper care and protection while they are growing, because they will have different needs at different stages of their growth. Without knowing the different needs of the sheep, we cannot distribute food to them on time. Moreover, a good shepherd should not take care of the sheep according to his own will. On the contrary, at times he must sacrifice his own desires and his own status in order to take care of those who are discarded, ignorant or despised. Our purpose is clear: we must be guided by the Holy Spirit in teaching the members to grow and mature into the measure of the full stature of the fullness of Christ.

In order to help the members to personally lead a life of spiritual cultivation, we, as shepherds, must first set the example by knowing God, having personal experience of Him and a close relationship with Him. If we know Him more and have a closer relationship with Him, then our worship will be more profound and effective. True worship of God needs to be rooted in faith. What God requires of us is worship in spirit and in truth, which is to be practised in our daily life, so that we truly understand that salvation comes only through Lord Jesus and that there is no name under which we can be saved. In order to cultivate a member so that he can lead a godly life, the cultivation has to be in faith, in love and in hope. It is through a prayerful life that the spiritual life can grow, and we can become an example for others. It is, therefore, through ourselves that people can see and know Jesus, and everyone can strive for this Christ-like nature. This is the purpose of our returning to God.

**XIII Hymn 408 and prayer**  
**XIV Meeting adjourned**

No.	Church Delegates	Votes	No.	Church Delegates	Votes
1	DENNY CHAN	2	13	HAGGAI LIU	10
2	LING TAO SHEK	28	14	JOHNNY LIU	3
3	MICHAEL HSU	30	15	ANTHONY TANG	7
4	GIDEON HO	7	16	JAMES TANG	23
5	JIMMY CHAN	3	17	STEPHEN HO	4
6	CHUNG SING CHAN	14	18	SIMON HO	23
7	CLIFFORD SHEK	0	19	WILLIAM HO	1
8	TONY YA HO	1	20	WAI KEE NG	1
9	DAVID HO	2	21	VINCENT YEUNG	25
10	TONY HO	16	22	KENNETH ZHOU	17
11	EDDIE CHAN	0	23	HAZEL LOO	0
12	YUK YAU KWOK	0	24	TONY WY HO	0

## Elgin Church

### Local Pastoral and Evangelical Work

Preacher Michael Chan came to pastor at Elgin Church from the 7th-28th November 2010. He assisted us by conducting a discussion on divine work and an RE combined class prayer session. He also led an evangelical service at Inverness, as well as leading sermons and visiting members in the Aberdeen district. Preacher Chan encouraged us with sermon topics such as: "Freedom and Peace in the Lord", "The Three Images of Jesus Christ", "No Looking Back", "Mutual Communication among Brethren", and "Fear God in Everything". These lively sermons greatly inspired us, allowing us to think deeply and advance vigorously in faith. Thank you Preacher, and see you later!

Preacher Johnny Liu came for pastoral visitation during the 20th December 2010 – 16th January 2011. On the day he arrived, all brethren sang together to sincerely welcome him: "We all welcome you, truly welcome you; welcome you with our sincere heart in the Lord. Hallelujah! We all welcome you". During his stay, he discussed in detail the teachings in Psalm 90. He also exhorted us with sincere words and earnest wishes during Sabbath services, with the topics: "If You Believe, You Can See the Glory of God", "From Weeping to Thanksgiving" and "A Good Work". As well as understanding the teachings, we are also expected to put them into action in our daily life, to glorify the holy name of the Lord Jesus. In addition, Preacher Liu conducted an RE combined class prayer session, Junior Youth Fellowship, Bible study for the Adult Class, Holy Communion, an RE teachers' advancement seminar and a team leaders' seminar. He also assisted in pastoral work in the Aberdeen district. His fervent heart was not held back by the tight schedule of holy work. May the Lord remember his hard work!

On the 1st January 2011, a new year had begun! Although the weather was extremely chilly, with some snowdrift, brothers and sisters happily came to attend the New Year thanksgiving service; even youths who are working or studying elsewhere returned home to join us. The chapel was bustling with joy and excitement. The service was conducted by Deacon Silas Chan, with Brother John Leung interpreting. The theme of the service was "Turn your Heart to God". The programme included an exhortation by Preacher Johnny Liu and a testimony by Brother John Tang. During the second half of the programme, led by Brother Jeffrey Ho, hymns were presented by five groups to praise God's kindness and greatness, His creation and the grace of His salvation. Group photos were taken after the service. Brother Denny Chan, our newly elected Religious Affairs officer, led a thanksgiving prayer before dinner. While we were having dinner, we grasped the opportunity to take family photos as well. The Purchasing Team had gifts prepared for the elderly members, over the age of 65, as well as the young children. Each family also received a beautiful calendar as a souvenir. Everyone enjoyed a day full of joy and a delightful atmosphere!

## Newcastle Church

### Co-Workers Team Elections

On the 9th October, we held the Co-Worker Teams elections for the new term of church work in Newcastle church.

### Ordination Ceremony and UKGA Meetings

On the 22nd November 2010, we held the ordination ceremony for preacher Johnny Liu. The following day was the UKGA Board Meeting and Church Delegates Conference, including the election for the 9th term of UKGA Board members.

### EPG Gospel Tea

In November, the church hosted another Gospel Tea event, "Join Us for a Cuppa", to welcome our friends and family to the church. May the Lord bless all those in EPG and Sister Fellowship who laboured in the preparation and toiled during the event. We thank the Lord that Preacher Steven was present to assist and lead the youths and adults in sharing the truth with our friends. By God's abundant grace, sixteen truth-seekers (English- and Chinese-speaking) came and expressed interest. May we remember them in our prayers and ask the Lord to guide them to His fold.

### The Memorial Service for Sister Chui Tai Ho Chan

On Monday, 13th December, brethren paid their respects and said farewell to our beloved sister Ho Chan Chui Tai, wife of Deacon Micah Ho. We were reminded of her dedication to the Lord, her unflinching love towards the brethren and her warm, endearing character which has and will continue to uplift all those who knew her. We thank the Lord for His abiding love, comfort and peace throughout the day.

### Sister Fellowship Elections

With one spirit and one voice, the church elected a new church board, sisters' fellowship committee, and a new co-workers group to serve for the next three years on the 14th November. We praise God for His fervent and diligent workers, as the church embraces the new year with a renewed heart and vigour to offer their best to our Master.

### Winter Youth Fellowship

The annual Winter Youth Fellowship was held at the end of December and took on the theme "Let's Keep the Temple Clean!" Over the course of three days, youths of three different age groups were reminded of their duty to keep both their spiritual and physical temple clean. We thank the Lord for the YCC coordinators, Preacher Steven and the many helpers who sacrificed their time to build up the next generation. We hope all the youths can be proactive, and carry this message close to their hearts, as we step into 2011!

## Portsmouth Church

Hallelujah, and thank our Lord that once again He has guided us

# UK Church News

safely through another blessed year. We in Portsmouth Church truly thank the Lord Jesus for His abundant grace over the last year. Not only has He added more to His fold in the past year, but we feel that as a church we have been bestowed with many teachings to guide us to be more refined for His use. We hope to continue to mature, not only in our love for one another and for God but also in our service to Him.

We ended the year 2010 with a combined thanksgiving and RE service on Sunday 26th December. This was a time to reflect on the wonderful blessings we have received from God in the past. It was also a time to renew our resolve to serve the Lord with more fervour and a heart of thanksgiving. During the RE presentations, the RE students shared their thankfulness to God for all the various blessings they have received, and for the support of their family and church brethren. They also sang wonderful songs and hymns of praise to the Lord, which were enjoyed by all.

During 27th-28th December 2010, the Portsmouth Church youths were thankful to be joined by youths from London Church and Leicester Church for a southern region Winter Youth Fellowship. The theme for this fellowship was "Don't Be a Stranger". The fellowship included 'ice-breakers' to get to know each other, discussions and hymn singing.

In our discussions, which were based on Ephesians 2:19-22, we learnt about the factors that may lead someone to become like a stranger in the kingdom of God, and a stranger to God. We discussed ways we can help others to stop being strangers to each other and to God, and to instead become fellow citizens in the household of God. We hope that by taking on the teachings from the passage and through our mutual encouragements, we can all be built up together as a holy place for the abidance of God, worthy for His divine use.

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

Ephesians 2:19-22



The participants of the southern region Winter Youth Fellowship 2010 and Portsmouth Church brethren

# The 1st Meeting of the 9th Term Board Minutes

**Present:** Silas Chan, Chung Pok Chan, Michael Hsu, James Tang, Ling Tao Shek, Isaac Chan, Simon Ho, Kwok Wing Ho, Luke Chan, Thomas Chan, John Ho, Vincent Yeung, Kon Fah Chong, Kenneth Zhou, Michael Cheung

**Absent with apologies:** Chairperson: Silas Chan

**Present by invitation:** Joseph Shek, TK Chin, FF Chong, Steven Shek, Michael Chan, Johnny Liu

**Minute-taker:** Eric Liu

**Date:** 23-24 November 2010  
**Time:** 8.30 pm – 11.00 pm on 23 November and 10.00 am – 12.00 noon on 24 November  
**Venue:** Newcastle True Jesus Church

- (I) Meeting begins in the name of the Lord Jesus
- (II) Hymn 468
- (III) Prayer
- (IV) Election of chairperson and departmental posts of UKGA

**1) Election Results:**  
**Chairperson:** Silas Chan  
**Vice-chairperson:** James Tang  
**Religious Affairs Department:**  
 \*Luke Chan, Michael Hsu, Chung Pok Chan

**General Affairs Department:**  
 \*Thomas Chan, John Ho, Isaac Chan

**Financial Affairs Department:**  
 \*Ling Tao Shek, Tony KW Ho

**Religious Education Department:**  
 \*Kon Fah Chong, Kenneth Zhou, Michael Cheung

**Department of Literary Ministry:**  
 \*Vincent Yeung, Simon Ho

**2) Election of committee members and/or working group-in-charges of UKGA:**

**African Ministry Committee UK representatives:**  
 Silas Chan, Luke Chan, TK Chin, FF Chong

**Russian Ministry Committee UK representatives:**  
 Michael CW Chan, FF Chong, James Tang, Michael Hsu

**National Evangelical Group-in-charge:**  
 Michael Hsu  
**Marriage Counselling Committee-in-charge:** \*Michael CW Chan, Chung Pok Chan

**Legislation Reform Committee:**  
 \*Thomas Chan, Haggai Liu, Isaac Chan, Gideon Ho, Eric Liu

**Internet Website Working Group-in-charge:**  
 Vincent Yeung

**Literary Reviewing Committee:**  
**Chinese:** Michael Chan, Simon Hsu, Luke Chan  
**English:** Michael Hsu, TK Chin, FF Chong

**International Assembly Account:**

**UK Trustee:** Silas Chan;  
**Cashier:** Thomas Chan;  
**Auditor:** Denny Chan

**Youth Theological Training Course-in-charge:**  
 Michael Hsu

**Youth Coordination Centre-in-charge:**  
 Steven Shek

\*Term: From the beginning of 2011 to the end of 2013

### (V) Matters of Discussion

- 1) Election of four UK representatives for the World

Church Delegates Conference.  
 Result: Delegate-by-right: Silas Chan; Other UK delegates: Luke Chan, James Tang, Simon Ho.

### (VI) Other Matters

Tasks assigned by the Delegates Conference:

- 1) A poster will be produced for recruitment of an additional UK full-time preacher.
- 2) To recount the actual membership number of UK churches.
- 3) Each UK place of worship should give a report to UKGA regarding its current situation. If a place of worship has a membership of more than twenty members, an appropriate venue for services, suitable workers/leaders, and is able to govern, support and propagate itself, it should apply for prayer house status with the UKGA.
- 4) To promote the message "Return your heart to God" in the UK, in order to help members enhance their:
  - a) spiritual knowledge;
  - b) spirit of service;
  - c) willingness to pray.
- 5) To appoint Michael CW Chan, Ling Tao Shek and Sez Mu Ho as signatories for the account of Manchester Place of Worship.
- 6) UKGA will arrange a farewell banquet for the visiting Taiwanese group in February 2011.

### (VII) Deliberation of Proposals

- 1) Whether or not to pray with words of understanding during the Holy Communion sacrament.

**Suggestion:** If and when the assigned preacher is in residence at the local church, he will discuss this matter with the local ministers and they will reach a consensus.

**Resolution:** This matter will be discussed by the Truth Study Committee.

- 2) To hold a UK Ministers Conference in 2011.

**Resolution:** A one-day conference will be held to re-elect the members of the Truth Study Committee, and also to discuss other matters.

- 3) Regarding the concept of the "self-existence of Satan".

**Resolution:** Relevant letters from the IA will be distributed to every local church. UK preachers and UKGA Board members should also clarify this issue with local members.

### (VIII) Special Motions

No special motions were raised.

### (IX) Prayer

### (X) Meeting concludes

# Rediscovering Worship

Deacon Luke Chan, Leicester

**At the start of this New Year, the UKGA has a new theme for the church in the UK: "Turn your heart to God". This theme encourages us to live God-fearing, obedient lives, making faith a part of our lives, and life a part of our faith. To do this, we first need to return to the basics of faith.**

Today, the faith we hold is absolute and is the only gospel that saves. In order to turn our hearts to God, we must return to this original faith – beginning with worship. In the past, worship was an important and joyful experience to us, but now do we still hold it in the same regard? Our faith is strengthened and practised through worship, so if our faith is important to us, we will reflect and rouse ourselves to rediscover the spiritual joy of worship.

Worship can be divided into attending church services, praying, listening to the words of God and singing hymns. I now share these with you.

## Attending church services

Are you happy when you attend service? Some people may be happy; others see it as a hassle. Some attend willingly; others have to be forced to go. Even if they have transport, some people will still not attend church. Others overcome many difficulties to attend services by any means. Why are there such differing attitudes towards attending service? It depends on a person's understanding of what attending service means, and their true purpose in attending.

In Psalm 84:5–8, the ancient believers were willing to overcome many difficulties to travel to the temple of God. Life brings many troubles and times of sorrow. During these times, do we still come to worship God with joy? Some may only attend service when they are in the right mood or when they feel like it. But the ancient believers went to the temple whether they were in times of peace or times of weeping, because to worship God is the most important thing in man's life.

Before the temple was built, the ancient believers could worship God anywhere. So why did they not simply pray to God at home instead of travelling so far to the temple in Jerusalem, just as they did before? God said, "When I establish a dwelling place in a certain place, you must come to that place to worship and make sacrifices." So when Solomon built the temple, the glory of God filled it and the chosen ones of that time saw with their own eyes the glory and abidance of God. And that testimony is one that lasts for generations, testifying that God is with us and He abides in His temple. As Psalm 84:5–7 says:

*Blessed is the man whose strength is in You,  
Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.  
As they pass through the Valley of Baca,  
They make it a spring;  
The rain also covers it with pools.  
They go from strength to strength;  
Each one appears before God in Zion.*

This is the strength gained from faith. Throughout times of sorrow or tiredness, we have to worship God in His temple, for He is in the midst of it. God is also watching in His temple (Ps 11:4). God is watching the deeds of man and He sees how many go to worship Him (Ps 14:2-3).

We spend a lot of time and effort looking for what we think is precious, what we think will bring us happiness, peace, meaning and value in life. But after we get what we are seeking, do we really have peace and

joy? Does it really bring meaning and value to our lives? We know we should search for valuable things, but not many people search for God. This is a shame, because He is the only one who gives us true peace and joy. In their hearts they say "There is no God," and they do what they want, deviating from the correct path and becoming corrupt.

Sometimes we may doubt that God is in His temple, especially when we do not feel or see His abidance. We do not see the manifestation of glory or angels, we do not experience signs and miracles, and all we see is a small congregation. Is God really here? The reality makes it hard to accept and as a result we lose our zeal and the joy of worship. But Jesus said that where two or three are gathered in His name, He is there in the midst of them. This is Jesus' promise. So when we gather in the name of Jesus, Jesus Christ is truly with us, even though we cannot see Him. The issue is whether we believe the words of God or whether we use our eyes, minds and feelings to determine His presence.

We may feel it does not matter if we come to the church or not, we are just one insignificant person, no one would notice. But this is wrong—God is watching to see who is willing to seek Him in His temple. When we attend, He is happy; when we do not, He is saddened. An ox or a donkey will not complain if their master requires them to work hard (Isa 1:2–3). They know their master who looks after them, and are willing to toil and serve him faithfully. Jesus chose us, not to be oxen or donkeys, but to be His children, to enjoy His glory and eternal life. Originally, we did not have a part in this, but how do we repay this great grace? No wonder God asks the heavens and earth to hear, and says sorrowfully that even the ox knows and respects his master, but that His children do not know Him or consider Him. God has already expressed His love to us, how should we respond to this love?

When we come to attend services we will be filled with joy and peace, because God is joyful when we are willing to come before Him. This interaction makes our joy and peace continue unceasingly. In fact, God has not stopped giving us His joy and peace; it is we who have stopped receiving it.

Paul says that some belong to the household of God, but some are strangers and foreigners. Which category do you belong to? If we are part of the household of God, then we are joyous in coming to the house of God. But why do we act like strangers and foreigners, unable to enter into the inner sanctuary and truly experience joy in worship? We are not bystanders but worshippers. As children of God, He is our life and centre, so we should worship Him all the days of our lives. Man cannot control his life; only God holds the life of man. That is why worshipping in His temple is our duty, and the confidence we have in this life of experiencing joy and peace. May we rediscover our worship towards God and gain strength through attending services.

## Prayer

When we worship God through prayer, do we feel joy? Sometimes we want to experience this joy, but after we say "Amen" our hearts are still heavy. (Phil 4:4–6) This happens when we have lost our faith towards God. We feel no joy because God is not in our prayers—God has no place in our hearts or we do not fully trust Him. (Ps 3:2–6, 16:8–9) When David faced trouble, his heart towards God did not change. He still turned to God and, in his prayers, came

before God. That is why his heart remained joyful.

God is also not in our prayers when we only pray for ourselves and the needs of our flesh. When we do not get what we hope for, we become troubled. But if we can place God before ourselves and think of Him during our prayers, we will be able to put aside our troubles. Therefore, Paul asks us to rejoice because God is our reliance: "The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you... [F]or I have learned in whatever state I am in, to be content" (Phil 4:9, 11). When we pray for material things and receive them, will we rejoice and feel that God is with us? However, if we do not receive our requests, will we feel that God no longer loves us? We become disheartened and lose the desire to pray. So if we think about God in our prayers, peace will descend and we will rediscover the joy of prayer.

We also lose the joy of prayer when we have lost the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Lk 10: 21). The Holy Spirit is called the oil of joy. A person who is filled with the Holy Spirit should be filled with joy, like Paul (Phil 4:10), which gives him the ability to face unhappy situations. Unfortunately, many Christians only seek after superficial happiness. What good is this? As Christians, we should seek joy from God through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, so it remains in our hearts wherever we are. As man has the Spirit of God, only His Spirit can satisfy a man's heart. Today we may spend more time on other things than on praying to God. Prayer can be a measure of our relationship with God. If we think prayer is unimportant, then God is likely to hold the same status in our heart. If we are lukewarm towards God, He will treat us in the same way. If we draw close to God, He will be as close to us as a friend. Paul and Silas were able to remain joyful in their prayers during troubled times—we also need to rediscover to the joy of prayer.

## The words of God

The ancient saints delighted in the word of God as much as they delighted in wealth (Ps 119:14–16). People pursue wealth, but do they seek the word of God with the same effort? The word of God is necessary for the spirit of man and helps us gain balance in our lives (Ps 119:1–6). Those who love and keep the word will truly experience joy and blessing. Do you have a heart of joy towards the words of God?

Today we like to gain worldly knowledge, but if we are not careful, unhealthy thoughts may creep into our minds and subconsciously affect us. The world teaches us how to prosper and enjoy ourselves, but these things are not helpful for the life of a Christian. We may even be influenced to follow the people of the world, which causes us to lose sight of the true meaning of our lives. In Psalm 119:9–11, the psalmist knew that only the word of God can help keep our hearts alert, and our sight clear to see the purpose in our lives, so that we are not deceived and misled by temporary vanities.

Man lives only once, and this one life determines his eternal future. So we need to be clear about what is most important in life (Ps 119:18–20). As Jesus said, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Our body needs food; our spirit needs the words of God. We do not study the words of God out of interest or in order to discuss with others, but because it concerns our life

(Acts 20:32; 2 Tim 3:15–17). For the sake of our souls, we must take the learning of God's words seriously.

If we do not love God's words, this betrays an illness in our spiritual lives. Are we like Jehoiakim, King of Israel, who hated the word of God and destroyed the scroll in a fire (Jer 36: 24–31)? Even if we do not dare burn the word of God, we might push it to one side and not attend services, preferring to do other things. What does our heart delight in? Unlike King Jehoiakim, who tore up the word of God when he heard it, King Josiah tore his clothes (2 Kgs 22:10–20). Two different reactions, two different endings. Today, what is our reaction to the word of God: are we willing to accept and follow it, or have we grown tired of it? Our reaction will determine our ending. If we tired of the word of God, it shows that our heart has grown tired towards God and we love the world more. If we love the words of God, not just for the sake of our souls, it shows our love towards God; this is a communion with Him. If we have this attitude towards the word of God, we will find joy in it and our lives will become abundant.

## Singing hymns

Do you find joy in singing hymns? Singing praises to God is our duty, because we are created by Him and belong to Him, and especially because He has saved us (Ps 100:1–5). (Ps 43:4) God wants us to come willingly before Him, and to understand to whom praises are sung. We sing to praise God, to please Him, and to serve Him.

Songs can also move the hearts of men. When the evil spirit came upon Saul and disturbed him, David would play the harp and Saul would be refreshed and peace would return to him (1 Sam 16:23). As Saul meditated upon God, he gradually calmed down and the work of the devil became ineffective. Through singing praises, Saul was inspired to rely on God and turn his heart to Him. At that very moment God gave him peace. During confusing and stressful times, singing praises helps us think about the words of God, makes us trust in God, and the confusion from the evil one gradually disappears. So singing praises has a great impact.

Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns when they were in jail, and the foundations of the jail shook. The gates were opened and the chains of the prisoners were loosened. Hymns will move God and give us strength. So during times of sadness and fear, when our hearts are troubled, singing praises can help us change our hearts and brings us peace.

Accordingly, worship is not a ceremony but the response of emotion, intellect and morality. Through worship, we communicate with the true living God, and live a renewed life with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God. In our prayers, we offer thanksgiving and praises to God, and pray for matters relating to the heavenly kingdom. We should listen to the teachings of God and worship Him in spirit and in truth. Worship is the action of Christians who cherish God. If we do this, we will experience His spiritual grace and abundant joy.

In 2011, may we return to the basics of our faith, rediscovering the joy of worship and turning our hearts to God.

# UKGA Department List (2011-2013)

## UKGA Department

**Chairman:** Silas Chan

**Vice-Chairman:** James Tang

**Religious Affairs:** Luke Chan, Chung Pok Chan, Michael Hsu

**General Affairs:** Thomas Chan, John Ho, Isaac Chan

**Financial Affairs:** Lin Tao Shek, Tony KW Ho

**Religious Affairs:** Kon Fah Chong, Kenneth Zhou, Michael Cheung

**Literary Ministry:** Vincent Yeung, Simon Ho

**Preachers:** Joseph Shek, Michael Chan, Fook Fah Chong, Thien Kiew Chin, Steven Shek, Johnny Liu

**Theological Student:** Raymond Leacock

**UKGA Auditor:** Johnny Liu (0191) 2687606

**UKGA Auditor:** Denny Chan (01343) 548834

**UKGA Secretary:** James Lin (020) 89002259

## Church Delegates

Elgin: \*Silas Chan, Denny Chan

Edinburgh: \*Chung Pok Chan, Lin Tao Shek, Michael Hsu, Gideon Ho, Jimmy Chan

Gifford Park: \*Thomas Chan, CS Chan, Tony Ho, Clifford Shek

Sunderland: \*Isaac Chan, Tony KW Ho, David Ho, Eddy Chan

Newcastle: \*John Ho, James Tang, Simon Ho, Wai Kee Ng, Stephen Ho, Anthony Tang, Johnny Liu, William Ho

Leicester: \*Luke Chan, Haggai Liu, Edmond Kwok

London: \*Kon Fah Chong, Kenneth Zhou, Hazel Loo

Portsmouth: \*Michael Cheung, Tony WY Ho

Cambridge: Vincent Yeung

## Current Existing Committees of UKGA

### Religious Affairs Department

#### Marriage Counselling Committee

Committee In-Charge: \*Michael CW Chan, Chung Pok Chan

Elgin: Dn. Lydia Chan

Edinburgh: Helen Choi, Catherine Shek

Gifford Park: Joanna Chan

Newcastle: Elsa Lai

Sunderland: Susan Liu Shek

Leicester: Angela Kwok, Su Jion Chan

London: Kon Fah Chong, Hazel Loo

Portsmouth: Christine Lee

### Youth Co-ordination Centre (YCC)

Committee In-Charge: Steven Shek

Elgin: Michael Chan, Stephanie Ho

Edinburgh: Mina Chan, Anthony Kwok

Gifford Park: Olivia Chan, Michelle Shek

Newcastle: Wincy Shek, James Liu

Sunderland: Colin Shek, Eddy Shek

Leicester: May Liu Ho, Wing Fung Chan

London: Jason Liu, Marilyn Liu

Portsmouth: Stephen Ho, Joseph Liew

### Youth Theological Training Course

In-Charge: Michael Hsu

### National Evangelical Group (NEG)

In-Charge Michael Hsu

Elgin: John Leung

Edinburgh: Esther Ho, Eddie Chan

Gifford Park: Benjamin Ho

Newcastle: Wai Kee Ng

Sunderland: Tony KW Ho

Leicester: Alan To

London: Kenneth Zhou

Portsmouth: Daniel Liew

### Religious Education Department

In-Charge: Kon Fah Chong, Kenneth Zhou, Michael Cheung

### Literary Ministry Department

#### Literary Reviewing Committee

In-Charge: Vincent Yeung

Chinese: Michael CW Chan, Simon Hsu, Luke Chan

English: Michael Hsu, TK Chin, FF Chong

### UKGA Internet Working Group

In-Charge: Vincent Yeung

Elgin: Jeffrey Ho

Edinburgh: Paul Shek, Bodie Ho

Gifford Park: Clifford Shek

Newcastle: Jason Ho

Sunderland: Eddy Shek

Leicester: Andrew Kwok

London: Peter Chong

Portsmouth: Michael Cheung

Cambridge: Kelvin Liew

### DLM Local Contacts:

Elgin: Timothy Shek

Edinburgh: Jimmy Chan

Gifford Park: Matthew Shek

Newcastle: Jameson Lai

Sunderland: Wendy Shek

Leicester: Audrey Chan

London: Lydia Tan

Portsmouth: Cindy Ho

Cambridge: Vincent Yeung

### General Affairs Department

#### UKGA Legislation Reform Committee

In-Charge: Thomas Chan

Assistants: Gideon Ho, Haggai Liu, Isaac Chan, Eric Liu

#### Local Church E-mail Correspondent:

Elgin: Denny Chan

Edinburgh: Peter Ho

Gifford Park: CS Chan

Newcastle: Eric Liu

Sunderland: Tony Chan

Leicester: Haggai Liu

London: Michael Brenyah

Portsmouth: Michael Cheung

Cambridge: Vincent Yeung

### Financial Affairs Department

#### UK Coordinator for the IA World Evangelicalism Fund:

Thomas Chan

**IA Account in UK Trustee:** Silas Chan

**Cashier:** Thomas Chan

**Auditor:** Denny Chan

### Others

#### Africa Missionary Committee:

UK Committee members: Silas Chan, Luke Chan, TK Chin, FF Chong

#### Russia Missionary Committee:

UK Committee Members: James Tang, Michael CW Chan, FF Chong, Michael Hsu

#### UK Coordinator of IA Internet Missionary Program (IMP) and Coordinator of Voluntary Workers(COV):

Vincent Yeung

#### Four UK Representatives for the World Church Delegates Conference:

Silas Chan, Luke Chan, James Tang, Simon Ho

## New Year's Revelation

Deacon Simon Ho, Newcastle

**At the start of the New Year, people have joyous celebrations and hope that everything will go smoothly in the coming year. From the past until the present, the wheel of time silently moves forward without stopping, without going backwards. Time in itself has neither future nor the past; this is only set by men. The old year has now passed. Rulers must examine the measures implemented in the past year and establish new initiatives. Businessmen must consider the profit and loss of the past year and strive to prosper further in the New Year. And for us who belong to Christ, we also need to examine our gain and loss; and resolve to serve God and bear good fruit. Only then, will the New Year celebrations have any meaning.**

When King Hezekiah ascended to the throne, the nation of Judah was fighting a losing battle against their attacking enemies. The country was in a state of emergency, and the people were forced to flee to preserve their lives. In 2 Chronicles 29:1-9, it records that in the first month of the first year of his reign, Hezekiah opened the doors of the temple and repaired them and said to the Levites, "Now sanctify yourselves, sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers". They sanctified themselves on the first day and went to temple on the eighth day of the month. They took eight days to sanctify the house of the Lord and completed it on the sixteenth day. After that they made a great sacrifice. King

Hezekiah carried out this great work at the start of the New Year and God was with them and gave him abundant blessings. This is indeed something to celebrate.

After this devout act, the king of Assyria came to attack Judah (1 Chr 32:1-23); he surrounded the fortified cities and wanted to conquer the land. Because of this, King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah prayed and cried out to heaven. The Lord sent an angel to cut down every mighty man of valour, leader and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. Thus, the Lord saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of the king of Assyria, their enemies, and gave them rest on every side. Many brought gifts to the Lord and to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all the nations from then on. When we read this passage, we know the precious meaning of the New Year - turning our hearts from the world to God.

During the recent Delegates Meeting, we all agreed on the plans for the divine work in the New Year - to push forward in our spiritual battle. And in order to proactively equip our soldiers and increase our provisions, we will continue to hold the YTTC and place careful attention in theological teaching. In addition, the Literary Ministry work should be expanded; we must carry out evangelical work in Russia and Africa, and Religious Education needs to be strengthened since the computer age is here and the world has changed greatly.

The shifting environment causes the individuals' thoughts and values to change too, especially

in the ever-changing Europe. It is inevitable that members' way of thinking will change with the times, a trend that is very common among the members in the UK churches through discussions and interaction on the internet. Even though our church is built on the everlasting Rock, the members' way of life and minds has changed.

In order to face the changes in the church and in the lives of the members, which can have a great impact on the whole congregation, the chairman of the Delegates Meeting hoped to find a message that is worth holding on to as a reminder to the delegates: to return to the Bible and to 'turn our hearts to God'. Even though we are in the flesh, we are not relying on our flesh to fight. Our weapons are spiritual and mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2 Cor 10: 2-5).

In this New Year, let's serve God with one mind, open the dust-covered doors of the temple, and rekindle the smouldering wick. We need to remove our evil fleshly desires and make a great offering, to produce fruits of righteousness. We need to know: do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? In the New Year, may we raise our tired legs and borrow from King Hezekiah's New Year gift, and the chairman's words of encouragement: return to the Bible, turn our hearts to God.

Hear these thought-provoking words. Run towards the goal!



Newly ordained Pr Johnny Liu and his family

## Forthcoming divine works in April

### 1. Spiritual & Evangelical Convocation

**Date:** 8-10 April 2011,  
**Venue:** London Church

### 2. UKGA Board Meeting

**Date:** 18-19 April 2011,  
**Venue:** Edinburgh Church

### 3. Spiritual & Evangelical Convocation

**Date:** 25-27 April 2011,  
**Venue:** Portsmouth Church

Let us all pray and ask our Lord to let all the divine works go smoothly.