

True Jesus Church

UK & A Newsletter

The
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th
Edition*When you said, "Seek My face," My heart said to you, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."*

(Psalms 27:8)

February 2012

UK Church News

Leicester

Thank God, Pr. Michael Chan and Sis. Joyce Chen came back safely after a fruitful trip to Kenya from 1 to 19 December with Pr. Joseph Shek, Sis. Florence Liew and Sis. Angela Liu. They helped to conduct three National Students Spiritual Convocations in Simerro and Alendu, and undertook pastoral work. Around fifty-five students received the Holy Spirit and many saw visions.

Bro. Raymond Leacock came back to Leicester from 8 to 21 December for a short break from his theological training in the USA. He has since returned to the Theological Training Centre at Cerritos, California, attending classes and doing practical work in the region until May 2012.

Our Spiritual and Evangelical Convocation was held from 24 to 26 December. Preachers Johnny Liu and Michael Chan encouraged the participants with sermons on the theme 'Return Your Heart to God'. Many members and truthseeking friends from Leicester, Leamington Spa, Bedford, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Sunderland, Wales and Malaysia joined the services. Thank God, a young brother received the Holy Spirit, and a friend who came to church for the first time was touched by the Holy Spirit. Praise God for His bountiful grace.

The new church refurbishment is still in progress with help from local members and contractors. The kitchen and canteen areas are near completion and over the next few months, work will be done to the chapel and the new ground floor toilet block. Support in the form of continued prayers and donations are warmly welcome.

Gifford Park

On 24 to 25 December, we held our annual Winter Youth Fellowship on the theme 'Rekindle Our Fire'. We had discussions on how to keep our fire burning, sang hymns, enjoyed fun activities, and ate our food with gladness! Thank God we were able to hold this short but sweet fellowship with the younger and older youths together.

Serving in Kenya: A Volunteer's Reflection

Angela Liu (Newcastle)



Group photo of all the students and RE teachers during the NSSC in Simerro

The whole chapel was filled with voices of praise to God

I was inspired to join the Africa missionary work after hearing testimonies from preachers and previous volunteers. I underwent training during the annual Africa Ministry Committee Voluntary Workers Training Seminars. Praise God, my first Africa missionary trip was for Kenya's 4th National Students Spiritual Convocations (NSSC) in 2008, when I was twenty-one years old. It became a springboard for three further missionary trips to Kenya.

On 1 December 2011, I travelled with Preachers Joseph and Michael, and Sisters Florence Liew (Cambridge) and Joyce Chen (Leicester/Taiwan) to Kenya where three brothers welcomed us at Nairobi airport. We spent the following day exploring Nairobi city, and continued our preparations for the pastoral work and the NSSC lessons.

On the Sabbath, we visited two Nairobi worship stations in groups. Preacher Michael and Florence went to the Guthurai branch and saw the construction site of its new church building. Preacher Joseph, Joyce and

I travelled to the Church Army station where the members and truth-seekers rent school classrooms for services. Their local hymns are very simple and meaningful and we clapped our hands as they sang.

That evening, we boarded a night coach to northwest Kenya, beside Lake Victoria. Preacher Michael, Joyce and I headed to Simerro for the first NSSC, whilst Preacher Joseph and Florence travelled further north to Siaya, near Uganda's border, for pastoral work. We were reunited after the second Sabbath at Alendu where two additional NSSCs were held simultaneously in church and at a nearby school.

During all three NSSCs, God truly worked amongst the students, transforming their hearts as they grew in faith and understanding of the Bible. One unforgettable night was when the senior youths led all the students in a two-hour hymnal session. The whole chapel was filled with voices of praise to God; it was an awesome experience. In prayer sessions, those without the Holy Spirit knelt in the first two rows

to receive the laying of hands. Thank God, over fifty students received the Holy Spirit in the two weeks, and many saw visions that were blessings and reminders from God.

One such vision was experienced by a sister, the daughter of an RE teacher. She was at the bottom of a deep black hole, and looking up to the opening, saw a man in white (Jesus). He called down to her, "Come up! Come up!" and so she looked around and starting climbing some steps. She then heard a voice below her calling out, "Come down! Come down!" She replied, "The man in white is calling me to go up, so I will go up. I will not go down." The climb was harder as she neared the top, but when she got out of the hole and stood beside the man in white, she received the Holy Spirit. The vision was God's reminder that now He had given her the Holy Spirit, she must stop and change her bad habit of retaliating whenever people spoke against her.

Joyce and I also conducted RE Teachers' Seminars (RETS), training the RE teachers in Bible study techniques and



Missionary workers and volunteers (from left to right): Sis. Angela Liu, Sis. Joyce Chen, Pr. Michael Chan, Pr. Joseph Shek, Sis. Florence Liew

in being an effective teacher. We helped to resolve teaching problems, guided them in leading groups, and did revision to ensure the students understood the lessons. Preacher Joseph and Florence met a group of over six pastors from other denominations and preached to them about the truth of water baptism. Our last Sabbath was spent in Nairobi

at Kariobangi and Kawngwre. We then headed home to the UK on 17-18 December.

Although most of the African members are poor by UK standards, they are spiritually rich in God's blessings and protection. We thank God in our hearts when they testify about how God has guided them into the True Jesus Church

and to understand the truth. The familiar faces I see each year during NSSCs is an indication that the True Jesus Church youths in Kenya are standing firm. They give their best to God and to us in hospitality: they borrow bed frames and mattresses for our accommodation, buy our daily necessities, and lovingly prepare all our freshly cooked meals. Regardless of what is shown in the media, you will not hunger when serving God in Africa; God and the African members take good care of you.

The NSSCs contribute greatly in nurturing the faith of the youths. Yet, they all face the same trials and temptations that challenge our faith too. Terrible trends—sexual immorality, greed for wealth, hatred and broken family relationships—are just as prevalent in Kenya as in the UK. It is sad when we hear of members leaving church because of their lust, human weakness, or when they go against the truth and the church. Let us keep them in our prayers and ask God to preserve their faith.

During my four trips to Kenya for the NSSCs and RETS, I have encountered many wonderful blessings. I have witnessed water baptisms and

footwashing, partaken in a Holy Communion, attended a church wedding, visited members, shared the truth with strangers, and sampled numerous tasty fruits and cuisines of Kenya. I have learnt to live a contented life and to not take my family and education for granted. More importantly, I need to keep growing in love, trust and humility whilst serving God and fellow members, and to make sure that the words of God take root firmly in my heart.

Praise God, twenty volunteers have applied to assist in the African ministry during 2012. Are you interested in volunteering? Then grab the chance to work for God whilst you can. Don't let your own personal fears stop your desire, but let the opportunity to join the work take you a step closer to overcoming your weaknesses—and in strengthening your service to God. Will you answer His call to serve Him in Africa?

For more information about the African ministry, email amc@tjc.org May all glory be unto Jesus Christ!

UK Church News (continued)

Elgin

From 24 October to 12 November, Pr. Michael Chan spoke sermons based on the parables of Jesus. Aside from the usual fellowships and classes, he conducted a sermoniser seminar to remind us about our heart in serving God, and visited each family in Aberdeen, showing them concern.

In late November, Pr. Johnny Liu assisted in an evangelical service in Inverness. He also held an RE seminar and visited truthseekers and brothers and sisters with church board members in Elgin and Aberdeen to strengthen them. At the end of his pastoral visit, in December, Pr. Johnny reminded us to be a church pleasing to God, and that two are better than one. These will be our goals for 2012.

Edinburgh

On 9 October 2011, Pr. Steven Shek led a youth cultivation seminar on the topic of 'Burdened and Unburdened Service'. Thank God, the youths who attended were encouraged and edified by the teachings shared in relation to our servitude to God.

The Upper Primary Class invited their friends to church for an activity day on 30 October.

They began with a short singing session followed by arts and crafts, where they made kites, wooden animal models and panda facemasks. Thank the Lord, seven friends attended the event and everything ran smoothly. It was encouraging to see that, despite the students' young age, they were able to invite their friends to church.

An RE teachers' seminar was held in November, with the theme of 'Servants of God'. According to the teachings from Isaiah chapters 42, 49 and 50, Pr. Johnny Liu reminded us of the qualities, equipment and suffering of a servant of God. We serve Jesus by following the command He gave to Peter in John 21:17: "Feed my sheep". In doing this we may encounter hardship and temptation, yet we must endure and continue to rely on Him.

In late November, Pr. Johnny Liu led a sisters' fellowship with the topic of raising children in the Lord. Though today, there is much emphasis on worldly achievements, we should not forget that passing on our faith is the most important of all. As parents, we need to set good examples for our children to follow, to pray together and communicate as a family every day, and to spend more time with them. May

we all strive to raise godly children to glorify God and to benefit men!

Newcastle

In October, we held a local sisters' fellowship, a fellowship for the elderly members, the UKGA board meeting, and also hosted the National Youth Coordinating Centre (YCC) and National Evangelical Group (NEG) meetings. During the half term holiday, we had a fun and fruitful youth fellowship.

November began with the Sisters' Fellowship Bible Reading. Pr. Steven Shek conducted Bible study fellowships and encouraged the brethren by studying the epistle of Titus, and Exodus 26 and 27. We were also blessed with a visit from the members from Gifford Park.

On 4 December, the youths of Newcastle and Sunderland congregated for the annual Winter Youth Fellowship, where Pr. Steven Shek imparted the message 'To Lead a Virtuous Life'. On 25 December, we held our annual general meeting and recounted the numerous works and blessings that the Lord has bestowed on the church in Newcastle. As the year drew to a close, the deacons encouraged the members

to reflect upon the past year and to think about how we can offer ourselves to serve the Lord in the upcoming year.

With joy, we welcome the birth of twin boys Mason and Cory Ho, sons to our Bro. Jim and Sis. Susan Ho.

We also paid our respects to our beloved Sis. Sai Mui Chan and Bro. Kei Hoi Lui, and ask the Lord to comfort both their families.

Sunderland

Thank God, on 24 to 26 October we held our Spiritual Convocation with the theme 'Rooted in Christ', with sermons led by Pr. TK Chin and Dn. Silas Chan (UKGA Chairman). By God's grace, we had seven visitors. The UKGA and Church Delegates Meeting was also held on 21 to 23 November.

In early December, both North East churches had a combined fellowship with Pr. Steven Shek in Newcastle in early December on 'Leading a Virtuous life'. We also held a Winter Sleepover Fellowship based on 'To Be A True Christian'. Thank God, a very good turnout of twenty-eight brothers and sisters attended. Many older youths

willingly led sessions and prepared food for us all. May we all continue to draw closer to God so we reflect His image to be a true Christian, and draw closer to our brothers and sisters to support one another on this heavenly journey.

Timothy Youth Fellowship has continued in studying the Book of Mark.

We happily welcomed back Bro. Cornelius Liao who worshipped with us thirty years ago during his student days. He is now a deacon with a lovely family, living in Malaysia. It was wonderful to fellowship with them and to be edified by the deacon's sermon during their trip to Sunderland and Newcastle, from 23 to 28 December.

Lastly, baby Lucas was born on 12 November to Bro. Eddy and Sis. Wendy Shek. May all glory be to God!

Cambridge

In October, we received a visit from Argentinean members, including Pr. Cheng Ming Chu. In December, Bro. James Lin, his family from London and three youth members from Manchester came to fellowship with us during Sabbath.

In October, Bro. John and Sis. Lily Pang travelled to Malaysia for around

a month. They had the opportunity to join church members travelling to China to visit churches there. Through God's grace, they recounted many testimonies that were experienced by the China brethren. In December, Sis. Florence Liew joined the missionary work in Kenya and shared many testimonies from her trip and from the African members. From the China and Africa members' testimonies, we can learn from their depth of faith.

Sis. Florence left for Malaysia in December and is travelling until April. May God guide and protect her on her travels.

London

We were blessed with a pastoral visit by Pr. Cheng Ming Chu from Argentina in October. On 2 October, he conducted an RE teachers training and a married couples fellowship, and sermonised with Pr. Joseph Shek during our Autumn Spiritual and Evangelical Convocation. Thank God, four adults and five children were baptised and added to the fold.

We celebrated the marriage of Bro. Li

Ling Weng and Sis. Bridget Lin on 20 November. The months of October and November also marked the arrival of several newborn babies: Elliot Chan (son of Eric and Wendy Chan), Josianne Liu (daughter of Jason and Maya Liu) and Arisa Lai (daughter of Tommy and Marie Lai).

On 11 to 13 November, we welcomed over sixty youths from London, Leicester, Portsmouth and Cambridge for the first Southern Regional Youth Fellowship. The theme of the fellowship was "Unity". Our annual China Brethren Convocation, led by Pr. Joseph Shek and Pr. F.F. Chong, was held on 25 to 26 December. We thank God that over thirty truthseekers came to attend this event.

Finally, Bro. Nissi Chin visited Zambia for three weeks with Pr. Steven Shek and Bro. Daniel Liew (Portsmouth) to help conduct the National Students Spiritual Convocation and to participate in the pastoral and preaching work there.

We thank the Lord for showering His blessings upon us this past year. May He continue to have mercy and guide us all as we embark on another year!

Portsmouth

We held our first Gospel Tea afternoon in October after posting invites in the area around church. This was a new opportunity to introduce the church and our service times to neighbours and friends whilst having refreshments.

On 6 November, we held an evangelical service on the theme 'Come and See'. The message shared that if someone had died for our salvation, then this would be an opportunity to find out more about our Lord Jesus and His sacrificial love for us all.

On 11 November, a special 'Reverence for Elders' service was held where Pr. F.F. Chong shared words of encouragement to our elder members, and exhorted the younger members of the church to learn faith lessons from their experiences. Special gifts were later presented to our elderly members.

On 15 December, baby Rehoboth was born to our Bro. Kuo Zhang and Sis. Qin Zhou.

Our beloved Sis. Lotak Fung Sam was called back to the Lord on 24 December. We pray that God may bring peace and comfort to her family.

Weddings



Wedding

Bro. Li Ling Weng and Sis. Bridget Lin, 20 November @ London TJC

Forthcoming Events (March–May 2012):

National:

- **2–4 April:** Spiritual & Evangelical Convocation, Portsmouth
- **13–15 April:** Spiritual & Evangelical Convocation, London
- **7–8 May:** UKGA members meeting; Ministers' Conference, Sunderland
- **14–15 May:** The 22nd National Sisters Fellowship, Gifford Park

Russia Ministries:

- **23 February–19 March:** Outreach/ Training/ Pastoring/ RE training, Bro. Michael Hsu
- **12 April–7 May:** Outreach/ Training/ Pastoring/ RE training/ Spiritual Convocation/ Church Workers training, Dn. Luke Chan and Pr. FF Chong

Africa Ministry:

- **30 May–24 June:** Zambia, Pr. FF Chong
- **10–31 May:** Sierra Leone & Liberia, Dn. Luke Chan and Bro. Michael Hsu
- **24 May–24 June:** Ghana & Togo, Pr. TK Chin and Malaysian GA preacher

Leicester: new church building renovations



Chapel



Kitchen



Canteen



Toilet Block