

GREAT COMMISSION Quarterly



綠 目

3 同工心聲 五項堅持 5 五項堅持 □王永信 10 神話中人 □蔡元雲 13 True Repentance John White 16 5 Misconceptions that Hinder Prayer Richard Foster 18 愛的焦點 □陳惠琬 21 從詩篇看大使命的普世性 □陳惠文 巴爾幹福音會議 24 The Balkan Awakening Thomas Wang 26 Declaration of the First Balkan **Evangelical Conference** 27 巴爾幹的復甦 □王永信 29 第一屆巴爾幹福音大會宣言 AD2000 30 主後二千普世福音遍傳運動 □陳惠文 大使命中心事工 33 東干事工長期計劃 36 A Short Term Mission Trip to Kazakhstan Joseph Liauw 39 宣教工場報告 □高崇志

董事會九六年度會議

葉陳淑淑醫生香港領會報導

不一樣的聚會 -

深化靈命 邁步差傳 Rooted in Spirituality Committed to Mission

42

43

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同工心聲

一、國際動員

感謝神使用大使命中心會長及同工們,在一些需要幫助的地區發動一些聯合性的工作,藉著這些聯合性的聚會或策略會議,使當地教會同心合意,與旺福音。過去一年,神讓我們有機會協助喜馬拉雅山區諸小國召開該區首次福音會議(1996年1月)。會後成立八個地區聯絡小組,積極發動各地福音遍傳計劃。五月,神又讓我們成功地將匈牙利各宗派的教會聯在一起,舉行了史無前例的匈牙利教會更新會議。九月,第一次巴爾幹半島會議又在大使命中心和主後二千福音遍傳運動的鼓勵與資助下,圓滿地在塞爾維亞的貝爾格萊德舉行。在這些聚會中,神使用大使命中心爲教會合作的橋樑,與各民各族的教會共同撰寫二十世紀教會歷史。

另一方面,神又透過大使命中心呼籲教會和信徒們,爲阿爾巴尼亞的物資需要伸出援手。阿爾巴尼亞多年在共產極權統治下,人民生活困苦。今雖比較開放,但經濟仍未達一般水平,極需外來援助。大使命中心承該國文化與宗教副部長之邀,聯同多倫多各華人教會回應此一需要,運送物資贈予該國饑貧人民。感謝主,經多倫多華人教會的努力,八月中第一個貨櫃從多倫多運出,十月初可抵達阿爾巴尼亞,展開華人教會關注其他民族全人需要的一頁。



印度蘇里曼



阿爾巴尼亞首都地拉那



俄國莫斯科



西班牙



俄國聖彼得堡

二、開荒宣教

在過去一年,神爲我們打開了東干之門,使華人基督徒有機會在一群祖籍陝西、甘肅的回民中,分享基督的愛,並協助他們的社區建設。雖然東干的事工仍是福音豫工,但深信神會繼續作工。有關東干事工長期計劃,請參關本期第33至35頁。

神更讓我們在東歐及西歐多個國家開始工作,並有 專職的宣教同工在這些工場上工作,計為:西班牙、葡萄牙(高崇志牧師),匈牙利(簡文騰牧師),波蘭(易明牧師),俄國聖彼得堡(王志學博士全家將於明年 一月前往該市)。我們盼望這些工場在一、兩年內能在 屬靈上有一點根基,而且有海外較成熟的教會、機構或 差會接手,繼續培育這些幼苗,讓大使命中心能繼續開 拓其他新工場,爲主攻佔更多未得之地。

三、文字出版

爲節省開支,我們繼續以最低廉的方式印刷《大使 命季刊》,但內容方面卻不斷提昇。盼望這一份刊物能 成爲華人宣教事工的喉舌。

自今年三月開始,每逢三、六、九、十二月更出版 《大使命通訊》,報導大使命中心的事工及同工動態, 使弟兄姊妹更瞭解大使命中心,並認識我們的同工。

香港大使命中心分會亦自本年八月開始,每月出版 (家書),與讀者們分享香港大使命中心的近況。

四、訓練及動員

大使命中心過去一年曾舉辦靜修營、宜教培訓、高 峰禱告會等不同聚會。今年十一月協助德州華人教會聯 合舉辦「德州華人差傳大會'96 」,而香港分會亦於十 月卅一日至十一月二日舉行宜教與屬靈操練營,盼望喚 起教會對宜教與屬靈操練結合的重視。

此外我們更開始了研究工作和影音工作,以協助各項事工的策劃和推動。以大使命中心有限的人力和物力,能完成這些工作,實在是神的恩典。

五項堅持

王永信

在我們日常生活中,神給了我們很 多選擇的自由,例如我們的衣、食、住 、行,在合乎聖徒體統的原則下,享有 大幅度的自由;諸如吃甚麼、穿甚麼、 住甚麼房子、開甚麼車,在這些方面, 神給了我們優厚的選擇權。

但是從聖經裏面我們也同時看見, 在生活與事奉中某些關鍵性的地方,神 卻給了我們明確的吩咐與指示,是不可 更改而且沒有討價還價的餘地。在這些 地方我們好像看見了神的本性與心願。 祂在這些重點上對我們採取堅持的態度 ,為要操練我們更有基督的形象,同時 也幫助我們成就祂的旨意,完成祂的心 願。

神對我們堅持的地方不少,本文僅 簡述其中五項,因爲這五項的堅持,對 於今日基督徒及今日世界有著切身的重 要性,必須加強、再加強的宣講。

第一堅持:聖潔

神曉喻以色列人說:「你們要聖潔,因爲我耶和華——你們的神是聖潔的。」(利十九2)。這是神清楚明確的吩咐,不含糊,不妥協。我們在此看見,在聖潔這件事上,我們沒有選擇的餘地,這是我們必須遵守的(Holiness is not for us to choose but to observe.)。在今天的時代,聖潔是極需要的教導,但是今日教

會的講台,並不多聽見這方面的信息。

在舊約時代,聖潔的意思是分別爲聖,凡屬神的人或物就是聖的。其至聖

在今天的時代,聖潔是極需要的教導,但是今 日教會的講台,並不多 聽見這方面的信息。

殿裏的器皿,因爲是專爲神而用,所以 是聖的。到了新約時代,聖潔的意思越 來越多具有道德的成份,聖潔也包括倫 理道德上的聖潔。

在生活與事奉方面,分別爲聖又可有兩個方向。從消極方面來說,就是「與世分別」(separation from the world)。那就是說一個人潔身自愛、不沾染世俗、不犯罪、不作惡。這誠然是不錯,但仍只是消極的一面,充其量只是「獨善其身」而已。有些人沒有犯罪,但也沒有為神作甚麼;沒有跌倒,但也沒有禁助別人有信心。

其實,分別爲聖另有積極的一面:「分別歸神」(separation unto God)。一個人在神面前,不但潔身自愛,且要獻身爲主用;不但保持自己不犯罪,也同時傳福音作見證,引人信主,過一個「兼

善天下」的人生。如此才了解分別爲聖 全部的**真義**。

第二堅持:悔改

同樣,我們從聖經看見,悔改也是 神對我們的一項堅持。

「悔改」的希伯來文"shub"的意思,是一個人對神與對罪的態度之改變,表示一個人決定離開罪歸向神。希臘文 "metanoeo"表示新約時代罪人歸向神的屬靈轉變,好像「有了一個新的心(頭腦、思想)」;也同時表明悔改之後當有的改變,「你們要結出果子來,與悔改的心相稱」。(太三8)

施洗約翰與我們的主耶穌開始傳道 的重點都是「悔改」。主耶穌離世前最 後的囑咐也是「傳悔改、赦罪的道」(路廿四47)。

悔改可從兩方面來說。不但未信的

不但未信的人需要悔改 ,基督徒及教會領袖們 也要不斷悔改,不斷自 省。

人需要悔改,基督徒及教會領袖們也要不斷悔改,不斷自省。在這一點上,大衛的態度值得我們學習。他說:「神啊,求你鑒察我,知道我的心思,試煉我,知道我的意念,看在我裏面有甚麼惡行沒有,引導我走永生的道路」(詩一三九23,24)。

悔改誠然是教會與信徒個人得到復 與及神更大祝福、更大使用的管道。「 審判要從神的家起首」(彼前四17)。 照樣,悔改也要從神的家(屬神的人, 就是教會)開始。

第三堅持:禱告

「你們要恆切禱告」(西四2)「不住地禱告」(帖前五17)

對於基督徒來說,禱告不是一件可有可無、可多可少的事。禱告乃是與神交通、討神喜悅、蒙神指引及得神賜力不可或缺的管道。祂堅持我們要「恆切」、「不住」地禱告。

有人說:「禱告可以幫助我們的事

禱告不但可以<u>幫助</u>事奉 ,禱告就是事奉。

奉。」這句話不錯,但是不夠徹底。禱告不但可以幫助事奉,禱告就是事奉。當我們向神禱告的時候,我們就是在事奉祂。禱告不是一個輔助品、附屬品,禱告乃是主要事奉之一。新約時代的教會是從禱告開始(徒一14)。歷世歷代普世各地的復興也是藉禱告而發生。

感謝主,最近幾年,神在各地教會 (包括美國的教會)及祂的僕人使女中 ,不但點起了禱告的火,也興起了禁食 禱告的追求。不少教會及弟兄姊妹們積 極參加各種專門推動禱告的聚會,並且 有些人開始禁食禱告的操練,這是極其 美好的現象。這種情形將會帶來悔改、 復興、更新與福音廣傳。願主繼續引導 此禱告運動。

第四堅持:愛

愛是不可或缺的。 主耶穌親自強調說明,律法和先知 道理的「總綱」,就是愛神與愛人(太 廿二37-40;可十二28-31)。

保羅在「愛之讚歌」(哥林多前書十三章)裏告訴我們,基督徒生命中最大的恩典就是愛。這一個恩典勝過說方言,勝過先知講道,勝過全備的信,勝過賙濟與捨己。因爲若沒有愛,這一切都算不得甚麼。不論舊約或新約聖經都給我們看見愛神與愛人,是我們信主之

爱神與爱人,是我們信主之人最基本與最高的命令和原則(申六4,5;何十一8;約壹四7-12)。

人最基本與最高的命令和原則(申六4,5;何十一8;約壹四7-12)。

但是在我們實際生活中對愛神愛人 而言,不論在質與量方面,都是與神的 要求相去太遠。人總是自我中心的,一 般來說,我們是愛那些可愛的人,我們 愛那些愛我們的人,我們的愛是有限量 的,是有條件的。但主耶穌的愛,是愛 那些極不可愛的人,愛那些恨祂、殺祂 的人,祂的愛是沒有限量的,是沒有條 件的。這是至高的愛,是聖潔的愛,神 就是用這樣的愛來愛我們。

我們的愛不但在量方面顯出虧欠, 在質方面也是如此。在提比里亞海邊, 一向剛強自負的彼得被主耶穌三次考問:「你愛我比這些更深麼?」主沒有說明「這些」是指甚麼,也許是指餅與魚,也許是指當時在場其他的門徒,我們不知道。但我們在這件事上可以看出愛 的區別與輕重。

主耶穌一共三次考問彼得對主的愛。前面兩次主所用的愛字是agapao,是代表至高聖潔的愛。約翰福音三章十六節「神愛世人」的愛,就是這個字。主的意思是:「彼得是用如此高超純潔的愛愛我嗎?」彼得兩次都回答說他愛主。但是兩次所用的愛字是phileo,化表人與人之間的愛、友誼、喜悅與感情,正如密友之間的愛。

主耶穌第三次問彼得的時候,將所用的愛字降了級。祂所用的不再是agapao,而是phileo。聖經告訴我們,彼得聽見之後心中就「憂愁」。原文可譯爲「傷痛」或「心痛」,英文譯爲"hurt"。彼得看見他的老師對他的期望(expectation)降低了,可能因此而傷痛。雖然如此,彼得第三次的回答仍然是用phileo這個字,好像始終不敢說他是用最高的愛愛主。

為了使大家更清楚地看見這一段對 話的特色,請暫時允許我用意譯(paraphrase)的方式表達出來:

第一次問:「你用神聖的愛愛我嗎?」

第一次答:「我用人間的愛愛你。」

第二次問:「你用神聖的愛愛我嗎?」

第二次答:「我用人間的愛愛你。」

第三次問:「你用人間的愛愛我嗎?」

第三次答:「我用人間的愛愛你。」

這段對話甚爲重要,很有意義。 Agape這種至高神聖的愛在人與神之間 及人與人之間是可能的(不然主不會用 這種愛來問彼得)。聖經中也給我們看 見這些愛的關係:

- 1. 父神對祂兒子耶穌基督的agape 愛 (賽四十二1;太三17)
- 2. 神對人的agape 愛 (約三16;加二20)
- 人對神也可以有agape 的愛 (羅五5;約壹四19)
- 4. 人對人也可以有agape 的愛 (約十三34,35; 羅十三8)

按理想來說,基督徒當然應該以至 高神聖的愛去愛神愛人,但是一般情形 卻不是如此。提比里亞海邊的彼得就是 例子。彼得的回答也常常是我們的回答 ,彼得的傷痛也是我們的傷痛。若是主 今天用同樣的問題問我們時,我們怎樣 回答呢?Agape愛是我們的目標,是神 堅持我們要努力做到的。

第五堅持:大使命

大使命是神自古至今一貫的心願。 神願意藉著屬祂的人,將祂的愛與恩典 傳給普世的人。這就是祂給信祂之人的 大使命,這是祂堅持我們要完成的。舊 約時代的以色列人及新約時代的教會要 完成的,以色列人失敗了,教會卻不能 也不可失敗。

在新約時代,神差遺教會(屬鹽的新以色列人)來完成祂的大使命:

- 社頒發給教會差遭令
 (太廿八18-20;可十六15)
- 2. 祂賜下能力,使教會能夠勝任 (徒一8a)
- 3. 祂指示教會工作的方向 (徒一8b)
- 4. 祂給教會保證,大使命必定完成 (太廿四14)

宗教改革之後,從十八世紀到現在 ,短短兩百年間,在神的恩典下,西方 教會開始差遣他們的子弟,前仆後繼的 到世界各地開荒宣教。諸如馬禮遜、李 文斯頓、孫大信、戴德生、耶德遜、楊 格非、李提摩太等人都是其中的佼佼者 ,一生被主大用,冒生命危險將主的福 音傳給異文化的人群。

> 神願意藉著屬祂的人, 將祂的愛與恩典傳給普 世的人。這就是祂給信 祂之人的大使命, 以色列人失敗了,教 卻不能也不可失敗。

到了最近五十年左右,感謝主,第 三世界(發展中的各國)的教會慢慢長 成身量,自己開始海外宣道。目前全世 界的宣教士中,已經有四分之一以上是 由第三世界的教會差派的。等到四年後 ,公元二千年時,第三世界宣教士的人 數與西方世界的可能相等,甚至超越。 當西方教會的普世宣教工作接近強弩之 末的時候,神逐漸興起了第三世界的教 會加盟,成爲普世宣教的生力軍。

在此我們要特別爲華人教會禱告。 在今日普世宣教的事上,華人教會遠遠 落在他人之後。論到人力、財力,我們 並不落後。論到屬鹽的知識,我們也不 落後。但我們的文化傳統和我們的民族 性成了我們進一步愛神、事奉神的大攔 阻、大障礙!

五千年來我們一直是一個內向的民族,享受一個內向文化。我們國土廣大

,樣樣都有,不需靠任何外來因素而生存,所以一向都是閉關自守。唯我獨尊。外來者都是「洋人」、「鬼佬」,唯有我們是中華、中原、華夏、黃帝的子孫。李斯給秦皇的諫逐客書中所說:「非秦者去,爲客者逐」,正是這種情形的寫照。這種排外的情形在早期來華的宣教士身上看得非常清楚。

這傳統封閉狀態直到三百年前才被 西方的堅船利砲所打碎。我們被迫打開 家門,五口通商,逐漸對外開放。一九 四九年之後,大量華人更是四散海外, 生活在各種文化及政治制度下,在各種 民族和社會中求存。

過去百年來,四散海外的華人基督 徒到處建立了「華人教會」。正如四散 海外的猶太人到處建立「猶太人的會堂 」一樣。在開始的初期,因爲言語、種 族及集體安全等原因而有華埠、唐人街 、華人教會之設立, 這是可以理解的。 但是到了百年後的今天,多數華人基督 徒在言語、知識、職業、財富等方面, 都已經與當地人並駕齊驅,甚至有過之 而無不及。在此情形下,是否依然走「 猶太人會堂」的老路,是今天華人領袖 們應該在神面前禱告並考慮的。寫到這 裏,心中非常興奮,因爲上週接到美國 新澤西州一位牧者朋友的信,說到他們 教會的長執會,已正式決定從教會的名 稱上去掉「華人」二字。這是靈命的增 長,瞭解神長遠心意,瞭解國度觀念的 表現,我爲他們讚美主!

感謝主,最近三十多年,神藉著下面幾次全球性的福音會議,挑旺了普世教會完成主的大使命的熱忱與行動: 1966 柏林福音會議 (Berlin Congress of World Evangelization), 西柏林

- 1974 洛桑國際福音會議 (Lausanne Congress of World Evangelization),瑞士洛桑
- 1987 拉丁美洲福音會議 (COMIBAM),巴西 聖保羅
- 1989 第二屆洛桑大會 (Lausanne II in Manila), 菲律賓馬尼拉
- 1995 主後二千國際福音會議 (GCOWE '95), 韓國漢城

神藉著這些充滿異象、挑戰與動力的福音會議,重新點燃了普世教會完成大使命的決心。祂更在1989年,與起了主後二千福音遍傳運動,其目標是:「主後二千年前後,普世各人群有教會,人人聽到福音」。目前該運動已在一百多個國家的教會中被推動,得到大多數教會的認同與合作。

同樣可惜的是,在此一被主興起並 大大使用的普世遍傳福音的運動上,華 人教會仍然遙遙落在後面,好像大家關 起門來,外面天大的事情發生,裏面依 然固我,不動聲色!

求主憐憫華人教會,憐憫祂的僕人 、使女及信徒領袖們,使他們打開心懷 ,打開門戶,打開靈眼,看見主的心意 、主的方向,把握時機,負起應有的責 任,齊心努力,完成主的大使命。

願主恩待我華人教會,賜給我們屬 惡的蛻變,從一切傳統束縛中被釋放出 來,以基督耶穌的心爲心,悲天憫人, 放眼普世,肯對世界放手,肯踏上十字 架的窄路,爲主盡忠到底,直到祂來。

註:歡迎函索「未得之地、未得之民」(Adopt a people) 資料。

神話中人

蔡元雲

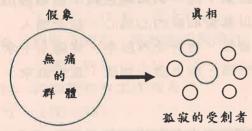
「我從來沒有想過基督徒的生活是免受苦痛的,因為我們的主也曾經憂患。我現在相信祂受苦不是為了免除我們的苦難,乃是為了教導我們如何受苦。因為祂知道生命與苦難是不能分割的。」~Alan Paton

主耶穌與門徒分離,踏上各各他的 路之前,不是曾經這樣對門徒說過嗎? :「在世上你們有苦難……。」只是我 們今天對苦難卻有不同的看法。

一位知名的德國牧師與神學家 Helmut Thielicke,有一次走遍美國各州 後,有人想從他的觀察中,了解美國基 督徒最大的缺欠是甚麼,他的回答是: 「他們對苦難沒有完整的概念與體驗。」

美國人可能因爲二百年來未嘗親身 經歷甚麼大苦難,而不敢正視苦難;然 而我擔心的卻是中國人因爲一百年來飽 受苦難,而存心逃避苦難。我發覺香港 的信徒對苦難的觀念也不見得完整,仍 有人堅信一些「神話」。

「神話」一:「教會是無痛的群體」 (painless community)



一般人對肉身的苦痛都抱有無奈的

態度,但卻清楚知道身體的病痛、衰老、死亡確是不可逃避的,所以在無奈中還是接納。只有極少數的信徒,仍堅持疾病與個人罪孽或信心軟弱有直接關係,而惟一的屬鹽回應是求神饒恕及醫治;當沒有「神蹟」出現時,便產生一些不必要的內疚感。

大部分教會相當注重探訪有病的會友,而安息禮拜也處理得十分莊重得體,這是對肉身苦痛的回應 —— 一個相當正面的回應。在處理時比較顯得尷尬的反而是感情上的苦痛:疾病帶來的情緒可能是恐懼、憂慮、孤寂、無助;死亡帶來的可能是離愁、抑鬱、埋怨、自責,甚至對神憤怒。我發現不少信徒在面對這些情緒時,顯得有點手足無措。

在病床旁邊我們都會爲病者祈禱, 然後握手說:「祝你早日康復,願神賜 你平安!」。在安息禮拜中,我們會安 慰死者家屬:「不要憂傷,保羅也勸勉 帖撒羅尼迦的信徒,不要爲睡了的人憂 傷。」事後,病者可能會因自己沒有平 安而困惑,死者家眷會爲自己的憂傷而 自責。

我立刻聯想到很多的經文:「應當一無掛慮!」「不要怕、只要信!」「要靠主常常喜樂!」……「神話」便由此傳開:基督徒群體是無痛的——只有平安,沒有憂傷;只有歡笑,沒有眼淚!

我在醫院工作五年,每天都接觸到 生老病死,才發覺處理肉身苦痛並非最 大難題,那只需一服藥、一口針;然而 每張病床背後都有一個故事,那才是最 需要關注的地方,只是有誰願聽這些故 事?

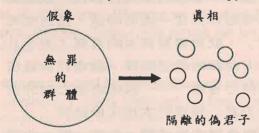
我做輔導工作約十年,叫我更加確信,每個生命都曾經歷或深或淺的創傷,每個家庭都有一本難唸的經;只是受導的人都有一個共同感受:就是沒有人敢正視他們的傷痕、沒有人耐心聆聽他們那本難唸的經。

很多信徒都不習慣聆聽這些苦痛的 故事,更不願面對血淋淋的傷痕。

我記得在一次小組分享中,我展示自己最近與人相處當中所受的傷,表達自己沉重、抑鬱、無助的心情,立時小組的空氣好像凝固了,出現了歷時十分鐘的僵局。事後,我明白那時小組的成員有點手足無措,有人表示不知如何回應,有人表示驚訝我竟會如此受創。

教會是個無痛的群體?牧師、「屬 靈強人」便不會受創?這些神話何時才 幻滅!

「神話」二:「教會是無罪的群體」 (sinless community)



罪在一個人的心靈深處留下傷痕, 帶來的是與神疏離的苦痛;罪在一個屬 神的群體中製造裂痕,帶來的是人與人 割離的悲哀。

每個主日崇拜,負責領禱的人都可能會認罪禱告 —— 是「我們」的罪,既空泛又籠統,而且聽來不覺刺耳,反覺得「屬靈」的罪:「我們可能有得罪

神、得罪人的地方。」「我們未曾關心 人的靈魂。」「我們沒有更深愛主。」

在信徒個相交中,也很少人敢透露「我」的罪,更缺乏勇氣去指出「你」的罪,只是偶然會提出「他」的罪作爲討論及代禱事項。但當面對面見到「他」的時候,卻又保持緘默,裝作若無其事。

表面看來,教會確是顯得太平無事,眾人也能相當客氣地和平共存,除了一些不足掛齒、相當「屬鹽」的罪除外,教會便是一個「無罪的群體」。

就是初信主的人也很快學會了這一 套和平共處的技巧。一位老師有這樣的 觀察:他的一個學生本來是很率直健談 的,對自己的過失也不會掩飾,只是信 主半年後,忽然變得沉默寡言了,在團 契中談吐很小心,個別交談時也絕少提 及自己的過失。老師當然不相信他的學 生在短短六個月內便「成聖」,反而察 覺他學會了一套新的「社交規範」:處 處自覺地要表現得「聖潔」、「合乎聖 徒體統」、「不失基督徒的見證」、「 不羞辱主的名」。

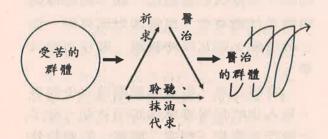
我自己也曾相信一些「神話」:一些我認爲是「屬情慾」的、「可怕」的罪,不可能出現在某階層的人身上。只是這些年來,這些「神話」一串串地幻滅:連團契的靈修負責人也會與人婚前性交!教會執事竟也貪財!聖工人員的婚姻也會破裂!……

有一次團契後分小組祈禱,組長請各人在神面前認罪,並且彼此認罪、互相代求。我也參與了其中一個三人小組,閉上眼睛靜默中,心中有個催迫,我開聲爲自己對母親的惱怒心態及表現認罪。睜開眼睛時,我發現其他兩位組員

面上浮現驚訝之色。

教會是個無罪的群體?牧師、「屬 靈強人」便不會犯罪?這些「神話」何 時才幻滅?

醫治與成聖是不斷進行中的過程





教會:醫治的群體(healing community)

「你們中間有受苦的呢,他就 該禱告;有專樂的呢,他就該歌頌 。你們中間有病了的呢,他就該請 教會的長老來,他們可以奉主的名 用油抹他,為他禱告,出於信心的 祈禱要救那病人,主必叫他起來; 他若犯了罪,也必蒙赦免。所以你 們要彼此認罪,互相代求,使你們 可以得醫治。義人祈禱所發的力量 是大有功效的。」(雅五13-16)

雅各不愧爲耶路撒冷教會的柱石,當他寫信給四散的信徒時,仍是流露出 牧者的心腸,他並沒有因爲這些在信徒 當中呈現的困難、軟弱、疾病、罪行及 諸般的苦痛感覺稀奇。他接納了他們是 一個受苦的群體,並引用先前眾先知及 約伯的受苦與忍耐,作爲激勵他們的榜

樣。(雅五10-11)

雅各對肉身及心靈苦難的態度並不 止於無奈,他一方面肯定苦難的現實性 ,卻同時指出教會醫治的功能。

當信徒收到雅各的信時,不會在病痛及罪孽的苦難之外,再背負一個自責的包袱,反而安然地去學習並體驗教會醫治的功能。

醫治的群體有這些特色:爲受苦的 禱告、爲喜樂的歌頌、爲有病的抹油、 爲有罪的祈禱,並學習彼此認罪、互相 代求。(雅五13-16)

聖奧古斯丁更將主耶穌在最後晚餐時的囑咐:「你們也當彼此洗腳」,和 雅各書「你們要彼此認罪」的教導相提 並論;主耶穌談及洗腳時,確有洗淨罪 惡的含義,所以我也確信「彼此認罪」 是主耶穌親口的吩咐。

當我撫心自問時,我發覺很多時問題並不是出於教會,反而是自己的個性與信心的問題。對我來說:爲喜樂而歌頌比較自然;有病時請長老抹油代禱已經覺得很尷尬;要流露內心的苦痛就更難啓齒;「若我的弟兄得罪我,我就趁著只有他和我在一處的時候,指出他的錯來」,就更需要莫大的勇氣(太十八15);向我的弟兄認罪、請他代求是很大的信心考驗 —— 我始終擔心我的弟兄是否真心按我的本相來接納我。

教會要成爲代禱、赦罪、醫治的群 體,先要打破這個「神話」:教會是無 痛、無罪的群體。

更重要的是自己先鼓起勇氣打破另 一個「神話」: 我是無痛、無罪的。

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True Repentance

John White

Our day is a day of superficial Christianity. To become a Christian you are supposed to agree to certain correct beliefs. Gradually you learn the Christian jargon and gain confidence in socializing in the Christian community. This is the quick-fix form of Christianity. It tends to produce either reformed sinners or else weak Christians.

Many years ago I was slated to speak at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Christians who had invited me were pessimistic about evangelistic possibilities at MIT. I asked them why. They told me that a year before, a well-known Christian organization had flooded the campus with ardent soul-winners. They made a significant impact on the student body. I forgot the figures, but I have the impression that "decisions" numbered more than a thousand.

"How are those Christians doing? " I asked, supposing that since only a year had passed, there would still be lots of enthusiasm.

"Only two remain, as far as we know," my informants replied. "Within a week the converts began to be disillusioned. Whenever we talk about Christ now, they say, 'Yeah, I went through that last year. Forget it, man!'

Some of the new converts may not have received adequate care, but I am convinced that was not the only explanation. I believe Christ had not been presented adequately. There had been no repentance and no new life in many, perhaps most, of the students.

In our day we do not evangelize. We do a sales job. There is insufficient sensitivity, insufficient spiritual discernment as to where the inquirer is in his or her search. There is almost no preaching for repentance, and most of our preachers have little awareness of God's awesomeness. Quick fix.

Perhaps we will never know how many people who made "decisions for Christ" in the twentieth century actually entered the kingdom of God. Some seem to — their lives bear witness to the fact. But

often they struggle, bewildered by promises of Scripture that never seem to work, and by an experience others speak of that eludes them.

If you watch a butterfly as it struggles its way out of its cocoon, you may feel tempted to use a pair of scissors to give it a hand. Sticky strands of "goo" may seem to hold it back. And as its wings begin to unfurled in the sunlight, similar strands seem to impede their full development. Yet the struggles of metamorphosis are necessary. Without the hindrances and the struggles to overcome them, the wings will never develop properly. Your "help" will produce a cripple, incapable of flight.

Christians who have never known repentance are butterflies that have never flown. Not having been through the process that God's Spirit alone initiates, not having resisted, or struggled like Jacob against an invincible antagonist, they have undergone an incomplete process of transition. They are butterflies incapable of flight.

Thomas Watson, the man responsible for the book The Doctrine of Repentance was a seventeenth-century Puritan theologian. In his exposition of repentance he made it clear that terror, tears, resolutions and reformation are not proofs of repentance. He declared that repentance was a spiritual medicine made up of six special ingredients:

- 1. Sight of sin
- 2. Sorrow for sin
- 3. Confession of sin
- 4. Shame for sin
- 5. Hatred for sin
- 6. Turning from sin

He said, "If any one is left out it loses its virtue." Sorrow is required "because the eye is made both for seeing and weeping. Sin must first be seen before it can be wept for."

Two words for repentance are common, one in the Old Testament -sub — and the other in the New — metanoia. Both refer to change, changed minds and

changed behavior. Yet they do not define repentance so much as describe its effects.

Another Old Testament word that is frequently translated "repentance" is *naham*. This word is also translated "comfort." It comes from the same root as the word used in Isaiah:

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. (Is 40:1-2)

The forgiveness of our sins, which is part of the process to which repentance leads us, brings comfort. A tender Savior offers forgiveness to us. So I define repentance as a process initiated by the Holy Spirit which brings great comfort to us. Repentance, wrote Charles G. Finney, "involves a change of opinion respecting the nature of sin, and this change of opinion followed by a corresponding change of feeling towards sin."

What True Repentance Does

Pain, real pain, is part of the process of repentance. This is the pain of facing reality. The story is told of a primitive man who encountered a mirror for the first time. He reacted with horror, disgust and fear to what he saw in it. Apparently he had no idea he was looking at himself. We do not see ourselves as we are, but through one of two mirrors. One belongs to us, and God has another. So we see ourselves either through the mirror of our personal vanity or else — more accurately — through the mirror of divine love. The view through the latter can be shattering. But it can change us forever — if we let it.

That is why great revivals are times of weeping. You will find an account of the first recorded revival in Nehemiah 8. The people of Jerusalem have gathered around one of the city gates to hear a reading from the Law. They had requested the reading. There in the open air, they listen for several hours.

Now, think for a minute. Picture yourself in an open-air meeting with several thousand people. No songs. No loudspeakers. Levites are reading for hours. Under such circumstances, would books like Numbers and Leviticus move you deeply? Yet because the Holy

Spirit was active, this is precisely what happened. The crowd wept.

Jean LaFrance says, "Discovering your sin is less important than discovering Christ — then you are close to the blessing of tears." He goes on to explain that you "cannot discover [Christ's] face without discovering at the same time what you are rejecting in your heart. This is your real sin."

Weeping is only one of the emotions associated with true repentance. Joy is likely as well — delirious joy over the wonder of sins forgiven, of God's loving acceptance of me. When the Jews wept in horror over their failure to keep the law, Nehemiah and Ezra ran among them telling them to rejoice. That day was a day for celebration, for God's Word had come to them again! So they rejoiced and had a party (Neh 8:10-12). Tears and laughter are close together when we repent.

A Radical Shift of Attitude

More important than emotion is the profound change in attitude and outlook that repentance brings. It is this that proves the repentance to be genuine. Weeping and laughter can have many causes. False repentance, Charles Finney tells us, "is founded on selfishness."

Finney's grasp of the psychology of repentance awes me. For instance, most Christians when testifying or preaching tend to be apologetic about hell and damnation. Those who have experienced true repentance have no such compunctions. Read how Finney describes the person who has truly repented:

He feels that it would be so right and so reasonable, and so just, for God to condemn him to eternal death, that so far from finding fault with the sentence of the law that condemns him, he thinks it a wonder of heaven ... that God can forgive him.... He is full of adoring wonder that he is not sent to hell.

Again, most of us, when we think we have repented, do not like people to know what God has forgiven us for. Some of our sins, at least, are surely none of other people's business. But the truly repentant person just does not care who knows. "The individual who has exercised true repentance is willing to have it known that he has repented, and willing to have it known that he was a sinner." Finney tells us,

He who has only false repentance resorts to excuses and lying to cover his sins, and is ashamed of his repentance.... Instead of that ... openhearted ... frankness, you see a palavering, smooth-tongued, half-hearted mincing out of something that is intended to answer the purpose of a confession, and yet to confess nothing.

One man I know seduced a younger man into a homosexual relationship. He was embittered by the church's response when the matter was discovered. Some years later, however, God brought him into a deep experience of repentance. Eagerly he called the church leaders on the telephone, telling him he wanted to come back to visit the church and do anything he could not only to apologize but to make any possible amends. He was willing, he said, to face any indignation that people might feel. He wanted desperately to make some kind of restitution. He was received warmly into the church and made the profound discovery that shame had left him. So what if everybody knew! God loved him and had blotted his sin out. "True repentance leads to confession and restitution. The thief has not repented while he keeps the money he stole."

There is another very important test of true repentance that distinguishes it from pseudorepentance. It has to do with our attitude to a sin we have truly repented of. True repentance awakens hatred and loathing of a sin you once resisted, but still found alluring. True repentance makes you hate the sin you repented of.

I remember once repenting of masturbating. When the repentance was done, masturbation no longer held me. I did not loathe myself (as I usually had done when I got through masturbating). I hated the sin. I hated the very walls of the room where I had last sinned.

Before that (except for occasional feverish lapses) I had done all in my power not to masturbate. But oh, what allure it could have at times! Absence would make my heart grow fonder of what I later truly loathed!

Finding True Repentance

Sometimes we get a team together to pray for someone with a "besetting sin," looking for some way to get at the root cause. At times this can be appropriate, but often it gets nowhere. We may be dealing with what I call "an inner healing junkie" — someone who is more interested in the wonderful process of hearing

other people's powerful prayers than in really becoming a holy person. The real need in that case is for an experience of Holy Ghost repentance.

But how do you repent? If what I have described is the real thing, how do you enter into it?

First, you must truly want to repent. Then you must ask God to search your heart to show you your sins as he sees them. You must call them by their names — even write down a list of them as God searches your heart. Then add to the list your "problems" and ask God whether you should not call them sins rather than problems. Take time in quietness to let God speak. All the time your focus must not be on your sins but on your Savior, on what your sins cost him and with what love he paid for them. As far as you are able you must refuse to go on practicing the sins.

You will not entirely succeed in getting rid of the practice of sin. The motions of sin, the attitudes you give way to in your heart, will still plague you. Even if you do succeed, your success will not necessarily represent true repentance. Therefore you must ask God to give you the spirit of ture repentance.

It may not come at once, but when you ask God something like that, sooner or later he will answer. By all means go on asking — not that you will be heard for your "many words" (Mt 6:7). What matters is that you keep the matter of repentance in the active file in your own mind. Then one day you will weep. Or maybe the realization of sins forgiven will sweep over you in a way that you have never seen it before, and you will be mad with joy, with "joy unspeakable and full of glory."

Or maybe it will be an altogether more tranquil affair, involving a deep assurance and a new liberation. Whatever the subjective pattern, you will know God has done a deep work within you. You will know a profound peace. For under the moving of the Spirit of God, you will have repented truly.

Let C. S. Lewis encourage you: "Can we do it if God helps us? Yes, but what do we mean when we talk about God helping us? We mean God putting into us a bit of Himself, so to speak." And when that happens, you will begin to know what experiential religion is all about

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5 Misconceptions that Hinder Prayer

Richard Foster

We yearn for prayer and hide from prayer. We believe we should do it — we even want to do it — but something stands between us and actually praying. What keeps us from enjoying prayer as a love relationship with God?

Prayer means talking.

This is perhaps the most basic misconception people have about prayer — that it means telling God what we want. Prayer, in fact, is interaction. You can find illustrations throughout the Bible, from Adam and Eve through the Book of Revelation, of the kind of interchange that goes on in prayer.

American Christians have a deep need to understand and learn the listening dynamic of this interchange. Kierkegaard said, "A man prayed, and at first he thought the prayer was talking. But he became more and more quiet until in the end he realized that prayer was listening." Fenelon wrote about the need to silence and still all creaturely activity so that we can hear the Divine whisper. Prayer is being able to respond to the voice of God.

Evangelicals are perhaps more accustomed to God speaking to us through the Scriptures. And that's good — it's the primary means by which God speaks to His children. Yet God speaks in many ways. We need to learn to listen for His voice. Normally, His voice is not audible... but I wouldn't want to exclude that possibility. Who am I to say how God will choose to speak?

Prayer is mainly listening. It is interaction, the dialogue, the interchange between two individuals. It's talking with God and hearing from God about what God and I are doing together.

Prayer cannot be learned.

Some people think that prayer is a gift — you either have it or you don't. Look at the Christian colleges in our country and see how many of them

have courses in prayer. This is because we don't believe prayer is something to learn.

We also show that we think prayer cannot be learned when we're not willing to risk making mistakes. Yet that's the way you learn anything. That's the way little children learn how to walk — they fall down. That's the way Edison learned how to make the first lightbulb — through the many thousands of experiments that didn't work.

Prayer is something to learn. "Lord, teach us to pray." And we can grow in skill at hearing from God and interacting with God and receiving more faith. We can grow in prayer.

Prayer is complicated.

In one sense, prayer is complicated. How can a finite human spirit be in communion with the infinite Spirit of the universe? It would burn out the circuits of our minds to understand it.

But in another sense, prayer is incredibly simple. God answers prayer because His children ask.

As I mentioned in my book *Prayer*, just as a little child cannot draw a bad picture, a child of God cannot utter a bad prayer. God is pleased with our desire to come to Him. The accuser might say, "That's a terrible prayer. The grammar is bad; it's egocentric. It's wrongheaded." But I think God says, "That's My child. He's chosen to come and be with Me. She's chosen to be in My presence. It's a beautiful prayer." God received it. It's not complicated.

I love Jean Pierre de Caussade's description of the simplicity of prayer: "The soul, light as a feather, fluid as water, innocent as a child, responds to every movement of grace like a floating balloon." The ability to move with every movement of grace as the Spirit comes — that's what prayer is about.

Prayer is grim duty.

Prayer can be hard work. But I also think that

people need to see prayer as a delight, as joyful interaction with a loving God.

I remember one time when I was vacationing near a beach in Oregon. I got up early and went out on the beach just as it was beginning to get light.

I remember just walking along and saying really loud, "This is beautiful." And I sensed a response, as if God were saying, "I know; I made it." I thought, Whoa! And then I said, "Thank You, Lord." I sensed God saying, "You're welcome!" And I thought again, Whoa! God was there!

This unusually strong sense of a dialogue lasted about an hour and a half. I decided to ask God some questions I'd always had. I was very intense in those days, and I was really worried about what I wore as a sign of witness to gospel truth. I wondered whether a white-shirt-and-tie mentality contradicted the concept of Christian simplicity. So I asked God what I should wear. And it was like God laughed and said, "Oh, Foster, would you quit trying to be so blasted religious and wear whatever you want?" That gave me great freedom.

We have a heritage that labels a person as deeply spiritual if he says, "For the first hour I struggled, and the second hour nothing happened. But the third hour I broke through to God." We read books on prayer and get loaded down with guilt, thinking something is wrong with us if we don't agonize over prayer.

We need to recognize that there is also the need for lightness in prayer. It's an occupational hazard of religious people to get too serious.

God is remote and inaccessible.

On a practical level, many people are deists. To them, God is far away. Yet, the gospel teaches very clearly that God is near.

When Jesus said, "Repent, for the Kingdon of Heaven is at hand," it was not a way of saying, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has almost come, but it didn't quite make it." Instead, His meaning was the same as if I were to say to you as we're walking down the street, "Behold, the restaurant is at hand. Let's eat." That's the idea. "It'd drawn near to you; it's come nigh," He said. "It's even in your midst. It's right here."

God is near; the Kingdom of heavenlies has come. Jesus' miracles demonstrated the presence of the Kingdom; the nearness of God. God is no longer remote; God is right among His people. What does *Immanuel* mean? God is with us. He is still present. And we can rejoice in the presence of God.

- **Taken from Discipleship Journal, (March April, 1994). Used by permission. © Discipleship Journal, 1994.
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Prayers of Richard Foster

A Prayer at Coffee Time

Somehow, Jesus, I like praying with a cup of coffee in my hands. I guess the warmth of the cup settles me and speaks of the warmth of your love. I hold the cup against my cheek and listen, hushed and still.

I blow on the coffee and drink. O Spirit of God, blow across my little life and let me drink in your great Life. Amen.

A Simple Prayer

I am, O God, a jumbled mass of motives.

One moment I am adoring you, and the next I am shaking my fist at you.

I vacillate between mounting hope, and deepening despair.

I am full of faith, and full of doubt.

I want the best for others, and am jealous when they get it.

Even so, God, I will not run from your presence. Nor will I pretend to be what I am not. Thank you for accepting me with all my contradictions.

Amen.

Be the Gardener of My Soul

Spirit of the living God, be the Gardener of my soul. For so long I have been waiting, silent and still — experiencing a winter of the soul. But now, in the strong name of Jesus Christ, I dare to ask:

Clear away the dead growth of the past,
Break up the hard clods of custom and routine,
Stir in the rich compost of vision and challenge,
Bury deep in my soul the implanted Word,
Cultivate and water and tend my heart,
Until new life buds and opens and flowers.

115 15 ---

Amen.

愛的焦點

陳惠琬

我有個學藝術的朋友,聲稱他曾對 美有難以自拔的沉溺。對他,一個人要 算長得美,不只臉蛋漂亮,連手、腳等 「配件」都長得順眼,才稱得上美。

反問我,則有些咋舌:「我……大 概是美麗盲吧!」

怎麼說呢?在我眼裏,一個人除非 長得像好萊塢大明星保羅·紐曼那樣英 俊瀟洒,或像鐘樓怪人那樣奇醜無比, 很難讓人瞎眼。其餘,在我眼裏看來都 長得差不多(這樣說來,很有些辜負我 「那一位」的一表人才)。

不知我這種美麗盲,算不算是「本身不美,也就看不見美」的阿Q精神?但我倒見過爲求美,而給人帶來的傷害。都說「癩痢頭的兒子,自己的好」,但不只一位女孩曾在我面前哭訴,因他們父母在成長過程中,對她們外貌的一些批評:「怎麼那麼胖還吃?」、「皮膚可惜長得太黑!」、「生下就沒妹妹漂亮…」……全烙上她們的心板,長大後對自己外貌老沒信心,以致影響她們日後發展正常男女交往的關係。更遑論擇偶、找工作,到普通交友,因外貌吃虧而受到的鄙視,比比皆是。

說也奇怪,我這人自小便有個特點,儘有些漂亮人愛和我作朋友,也許因為我很適合陪襯吧!(我也很阿Q地不以爲憾。)但她們若當我面對身邊人挑 鼻挑眼挑長相之時,我馬上翻臉。我的 個性很俠骨柔情,絕不能忍受「富人」 對「窮人」擺闊。我認為那些天生優勢 ,應憐憫那些不足之人,而不是成為他 們的威脅。長相是無法改變的事實,挑 剔,成了對不美之人的「暴力」。

更何況,美醜的標準,是相對,而非絕對。讓一個人之所以「動人」,還牽涉到許多內蘊的發揮與伸展。演技派演員達斯汀·哈夫曼(Dustin Hoffman),是了一個猶太人大鼻與五短身材,絕稱不上俊男。但卻不妨礙他扮演男主角,把所有戲份掌握得生動自然,八呎銀幕撐得毫不遜色。上帝造人,人人皆有其獨特之處,重要的不在美醜,而在有沒有發揮「特色」。

同樣地,不只美醜,我看人也沒有好壞、輸贏、智愚、成敗……這並非因我偏愛近視朦朧美,花非花,霧非霧,而是因著我的恩師,著有〈只是道德〉(Mere Morality)一書的著名倫理學家路易・史密德(Lewis Smedes)在課堂上的傳授,給了我一個新的觀點看人,使我對人性洞悉一些「內情」,接納力也因而被拓寬。

這觀點是來自聖經中保羅爲腓立比 教會的一個禱告:「我所禱告的,就是 要你們的愛心,在知識和各樣見識上, 多而又多;使你們能分辨何爲最美好的

路易 · 史密德強調保羅所講的,其

實就是愛,是洞察,是在愛裏的洞察。

素來,我們習於用記憶、經驗、感 覺、期望、道德標準,交織成一個過濾 人的「篩子」,把一個一個不相干的人 ,準確無誤地「篩出」我們生活圈之外 ,使我們不用再浪費自己的心思去在乎

然而,愛裏洞察,卻是學著對一個 人透視他的表象與細節,觀人之所未見 ,抓人之所不察。然後,再因這一洞察 ,把人一個、一個「網入」我們生活圈 之內。是爲使我們把心不斷拓大,使自 己的生命與眾人在深處中連接。

但耳熟能詳地不是「愛,會使人盲 目」麼?爲何保羅卻強調有更多的愛, 才能不盲目,才能作到真正分辨?

我想差別在於一份關愛,可以使我們由事不關己,到進入「置身事內」,然後,好似電影的長鏡頭拉近、鎖定,許多細微處才放大、看清。

我曾認識一個家庭,住在好萊塢影城邊緣,那是許多妓女出沒的紅燈區。 其實那些實淫妓女,很多都是逃家少女,帶著一個明星夢由美國各地搭便車來 到日落大道,幾乎是才下車便被拉皮條 的拐騙,而走上歧途。這個家庭選擇這個地點「落戶」,爲的就是開放他們的 家,款待一些付不起房租的妓女,與她 們同住、同享她們的痛、她們的怕、她 們的憂慮與傷心。反「孟母三遷」地, 他們的幼兒也便在這些大姊姊的衣香鬢 影中成長。

想到同住一屋簷下,浴廁餐具全共 用共享,難道不怕性病、愛滋病傳染麼 ?甚至,不怕這些對他們的孩子有負面 影響?這是我直覺冒出的疑問。

「只要小心一些,不會有危險的。 更何況,這些逃家孩子本性並不壞,她 們只是逃失。對我的孩子, 這是學習愛 的最好機會了! 」那父親誠摯地說。

「不是妓女,只是逃失」,好一個 洞察!若無愛,怕無法跨過一般人的懼 怕,在更深一層面去解讀她們的靈魂, 正視她們的存在與價值吧!

所以,愛會使我們願意投入。一旦 與人發生牽繫,我們的眼光也隨即跟著 卸防、軟化,變得較爲溫柔。而溫柔, 可以滌淨對方臉上的塵土,還他靈魂應 有的一份尊嚴。

其實,美醜、好壞、輸贏、智愚、 成敗……都是一個個標籤,是我們爲人 下的註解。這恐怕是現代快節奏生活步 調下的產物了。它暢行,是因這樣與人 相交,省力。一旦把人按著標籤歸檔, 我們便可藉用一些「歸檔」的感覺來三 、兩下相待。我們好似不再付得起時間 與工夫來從頭認識一個人、一個鹽魂。 於是一個個標籤出籠:「輸家」、「找 麻煩的」、「扶不起的阿斗」、「野心 家」、「沒出息」、「放蕩」、「騙子」、「殘廢」……

一件商品一經標價,那商品的價值 ,便只值所標之價。同樣地,一個人一 旦被貼上標籤,便也常被減縮、壓扁成 一個標籤的意義。尤其,牽涉到罪,我 們更容易按各種罪名,輕易地定義一個 人的命運。

我在科羅拉多泉開會時,曾認識一位俄亥俄州來的英文系教授,年近中年,喜著吉甫賽式大印花衫裙,搖著兩支大圓耳環,待人親切,談吐機智風趣。第一天認識,她便不斷邀我同進同出。等倆人混熟話多之後,我對她前夫長前夫短地感到困惑,怎麼一下前夫比她大?一下前夫又比她小?一下前夫很有錢?一下前夫又很窮?一問之下我才倒抽

一口氣,原來她有三個前夫,現任丈夫 是第四任!

雖知現代美式婚姻離合普遍,但結 四次婚,仍是一個難以吞下的事實。在 跨過女人直覺反應,多看她兩眼,想瞧 出她能吸引四個男人的媚力在哪之後, 便開始沉思,我應如何應對?

我想到耶穌, 祂曾與多位犯淫亂的 女子,在公共場合有所牽連, 怎麼祂不 怕破壞形像? 祂又是如何反應? 我想到 那井邊曾跟過五個男人的撒瑪利亞婦人 故事, 祂在這女人身上, 看到的好似不 是「不守婦道」。一個犯姦淫的浪蕩女 子, 耶穌看到的, 是甚麼?

我轉頭,誠態地望著她問:「有句流行歌歌辭:『在所有錯誤的地方找愛(Looking for love in all the wrong places)』,聽來很像妳的寫照。告訴我,是甚麼讓妳由一個男人,飄泊到另一個男人身邊?」

她兩眼一下睁大,不可置信地望著 我,說:「我以爲妳會說我對愛太隨便 ,誰會喜歡被人視爲隨便?沒錯,我只 是是個需要愛的人,沒錯,我也老是在 錯誤的地方找愛,但我沒想到妳會了解 !」

她不知道的是,我在心中推拿揉捏了好半天耶穌的心,終於抓到愛,是不用一個標籤來封死她。而是先嚐試去了解她的生活方式與需要,看看是甚麼造成今天的她,然後,再在她的處境裏去 嚐試,愛她。

因人人皆有不忍之心。往往,洞悉 一切「內情」,會使我們的心柔軟,更 容易接納、包容對方的軟弱。

甚至當我們受到傷害, 這內情會使

我們放棄反覆舔舐自己的傷口,而「看 到」傷我們之人,不是出於惡意攻擊, 而是因著他自己的軟弱、恐懼和需要。 這個「看見」,有時可化忿怒爲憐憫, 使一雙本欲在仇恨中追討的拳頭,張開 、舒展爲擁抱的雙臂。

前幾年北美的盧剛殺人事件,震驚 人心。但更令人錯愕的,是幾位受害教 授家人的反應。一位柯莉瑞博士的兄弟 ,竟然發表一封致盧剛家人的慰問信, 帶著愛與仁慈安慰盧剛遠在中國大陸的 家人。另一位受害教授史密斯博士太太 ,更在事件發生後四週,不計前嫌,仍 邀當地的中國留學生去她家共享感恩晚 餐。

他們「看見」的是,對方是因找不 到人生出口,才選擇用毀滅突圍!從而 生出一種深刻的諒解,與憐憫之心。要 怎樣一種看見,才能使人昇華自己的傷 痛啊?若無愛,我們怎有餘力把對方的 靈魂,看得比自己傷口大?比自己的傷 口更實貴、重要?

放眼望去,芸芸眾生之中,有多少 人是張著一雙茫然眼,穿梭人海而未為 任何一個靈魂駐足?又有多少人是用刀 似眼光,一個個割宰與自己有緣錯屑、 卻無心把握之人?若我們的眼光能用愛 來調和,身邊生命便不再是一張張陌生 飄過的影子。而是,有傷口、沒傷口, 缺少愛、有愛,需要饒恕、已被饒恕… …的實實靈魂。

若人間有愛,我們便不再會對人的 生命盲目。也唯有愛,給我們看生命, 一個焦點。

※轉載自《宇宙光》1996年8月號。 □作者現居洛杉磯,專事寫作。

從詩篇看大使命的普世性

陳惠文

前言

當我們提起宣教,提起大使命時, 大部分的人都會引證四福音及保羅書信,好像宣教的意念,只從新約時代開始。無疑,主耶穌道成肉身,完成救贖, 頒佈大使命這些事實,全部是在新約時 代;但神對普世的關顧,卻早在創世之 時已顯明了。

神創造人類時,對人的第一個吩咐就是:「要生養眾多,遍滿地面,治理這地」(創一28)。神用洪水毀滅地面後,對挪亞的祝福也是:「生養眾多,遍滿了地」(創九1),「你們要生養眾多,在地上昌盛繁茂」(創九7),可見神對普世的關顧。所以自從人墮落後,神就開始了普世救贖計劃(創三15)。

神對亞伯蘭的呼召,更明顯是關乎 地上萬族的:「…我必叫你成爲大國, 我必賜福給你,叫你的名爲大;你也要 叫別人得福。…地上萬族都要因你得福 」(創十二2,3)。

所以神所關心的,不只是以色列人,而是全人類。雖然當以色列違背神時,神用不信的外族來管治以色列人,使他們受苦,直至他們悔改、呼求神時,神才拯救他們脫離外族的管治;但我們發現有些外族人也敬畏神,神也祝福、使用這些外族人,例如:妓女喇合、摩押女子路得和鳥斯人約伯等。

其實以色列人很清楚神對普世的心意,只因民族優越感和狹隘的家國主義,而不願意成爲「施福的器皿」,但心底裏是明白神普世性的心意。這方面可從他們的讚美詩—— 詩篇中略見端倪。

詩篇的宣教意識

詩篇是以色列人向神敬拜的樂章, 向神祈求、感謝的禱文,充分表現神對 以色列人的啓示和以色列人向神的回應 。這些詩篇傾倒出他們對神戀慕之情, 同時也勾劃出他們對神的單純價心。

從詩篇中我們看到神的偉大、神的創造、神對以色列人的訓悔、懲戒、拯救和恩典;另一方面,我們也看到神對外邦、外族的關顧。例如詩篇六十七篇第二節「好叫世界得知你的道路,萬國得知你的救恩」。George Peters指出詩篇中有超過一百七十五處提及救恩的普世性,他更嘉譽詩篇爲最具宣教意識的書卷之一。此外,Roger Hedlund更選出十一篇具宣教意識的詩篇,稱它們爲「宣教之章」。這十一篇詩篇是:2、33、66、67、68、72、87、96、98、117、147。同時,他亦提出普世性的觀念在詩篇中俯拾皆是。

一些普世性的名詞,例如:「萬國」、「萬民」、「列邦」、「全地」、「地的四極」、「世界」、「普天下」等出現在8、22、47、57、86、97、99、

100、102、103、105、106、108、113、 138、145、148等篇中。

以下僅略舉一二,以爲佐證:

地的四極都要想念耶和華,並 且歸順他;列國的萬族都要在你面 前敬拜。因為國權是耶和華的;他 是管理萬國的。(詩廿二27,28)

……我要在萬民中稱謝你,在 列邦中歌頌你!(詩五十七9、一 百零八3)

全地都當向神歡呼! ……全地 要敬拜你,歌頌你,要歌頌你的名 。……萬民哪,你們當稱頌我們的 神,使人得聽讚美他的聲音。 (詩 六十六1-8)

……願萬國都快樂歡呼;因為 你必按公正審判萬民,引導世上的 萬國。神啊,願列邦稱讚你!願萬 民都稱讚你!地已經出了土產;神 ——就是我們的神要賜福與我們。 神要賜福與我們;地的四極都要敬 畏他。(詩六十七4-7)

詩篇中的宣教觀念

大部分宜教學者都同意宣教工作有 兩方面的使命:文化使命(Cultural Mandate)和福音使命(Evangelistic Mandate) 。我們一方面要「治理違地」(創一28),同時更要使「萬族…得福」(十二 3)。在詩篇中我們也看見這兩方面的 教導。

(一) 文化使命

詩篇中多次提到造天地的耶和華(8:3、33:6、90:2、95:5、102:25、104、115:15、121:2、124:8、134:3、136:5-9、

146:6、148:3-5)、造萬民的主(86:9、95:6、100:3、102:18、103:22、119:73、139:13-16、145:9、149:2)。詩篇第八篇 清楚提到神給人管理萬物的責任:「你派他管理你手所造的,使萬物,就是一切的牛羊、田野的獸、空中的鳥、海裏的魚,凡經行海道的,都服在他的腳下」(詩八6-8)。這是神給人文化使命中其中一個範疇——治理這地。因爲「地和其中所充滿的,世界和住在其間的,都屬耶和華」(詩廿四1)。

既然「世界和住在其間的,都屬耶 和華」,文化使命便有另一個層面,就 是社關的層面。耶和華不僅關顧世人食 物的需要:「他使草生長,給六畜喫, 使菜蔬發長,供給人用,使人從地裏能 得食物,又得酒能悅人心,得油能潤人 面,得糧能養人心」(詩一零四14,15) ,「他賜糧食給凡有血氣的,因他的慈 愛永遠長存」(詩一三六25),更關心 他們心靈的需要:「他醫好傷心的人, 裹好他們的傷處」(詩一四七3),因 爲「耶和華善待萬民;他的慈悲覆庇他 一切所造的」(詩一四五9),「他沒 有藐視憎惡受苦的人,也沒有向他掩面 ;那受若之人呼籲的時候,他就垂聽」 (詩二二24)。由此可見,詩篇的作者 明白官教的文化使命。

(二)福音使命

宣教的文化使命固然重要,但福音 使命更加重要。福音使命是要將神所造 的萬民,引回神的面前,要他們認識、 敬畏創造他們的主,得享他的救恩。

詩篇的作者指出不認識真神的列邦 的境況:

外邦為甚麼爭關?萬民為甚麼 获算虚妄的事?世上的君王一齊起 來,臣宰一同商議,要敵擋耶和華 並他的受賣者,說:我們要掙開他 們的捆綁, 脱去他們的繩索。那坐 在天上的必發笑; 主必嗤笑他們。 那時他要在怒中責備他們,在烈怒 中驚嚇他們,說:我已經立我的君 在錫安 -- 我的聖山上了。受膏者 說:我要傳聖旨。耶和華曾對我說 , 你是我的兒子, 我今日生你。你 求我,我就將列國賜你為基業,將 地極賜你為田產。你必用鐵杖打破 他們;你必將他們如同窯匠的瓦器 摔破。現在,你們君王應當省悟! 你們世上的審判官該受管教!當存 畏懼事奉耶和華,又當存戰兢而快 樂。當以嘴親子,恐怕他發怒,你 們便在道中滅亡,因為他的怒氣快 要發作。凡投靠他的,都是有福的 。」(詩二)

明顯地,不認識耶和華的「以心願自誇」(詩十3),「他一切所想的都以爲沒有神」(詩十4)。我們必須幫助他們省悟,轉向畏懼事奉耶和華,因爲「以耶和華爲神的,那國是有福的!他所揀選爲自己產業的,那民是有福的!」(詩卅三12)。

詩篇的作者兩次(詩——五4-8、一 三五15-18)很清楚的分析事奉偶像的愚 昧:

他們的偶像是金的,銀的,是 人手所造的,有口卻不能言,有眼 卻不能看,有耳卻不能聽,有鼻卻 不能聞,有手卻不能摸,有腳卻不 能走,有喉嚨也不能出聲。造他的 要和他一樣,凡靠他的也要如此。(詩一一五4-8)

而且指出事奉道些偶像的必蒙羞愧(詩九十七7),因爲耶和華是遠超萬神之上(詩九十七9),更呼籲萬神都當拜耶和華(詩九十七7)。

詩篇的作者鼓勵信徒們去「傳好信 息」(詩六十八11),「在列邦中述說 他的榮耀!在萬民中述說他的奇事!」 (詩九十六3),並要「天天傳揚他的 救恩!」(詩九十六2), 這就是大使 命的要求 —— 往普天下去傳福音給萬民 聽,目的是要各民各族都歸向神。「我 要使眾民從巴珊而歸,使他們從深海而 回……埃及的公侯要出來朝見神,古實 人要急忙舉手禱告」(詩六十八22-31) 。「他要執掌權柄,從這海直到那海, 從大河直到地極。住在曠野的,必在他 面前下拜;他的仇敵必要舔土。他施和 海島的王要進貢;示巴和西巴的王要獻 禮物。諸王都要叩拜他; 萬國都要事奉 他」(詩七十二8-11)。

若要萬國都要事奉他,諸王都要叩 拜他,就要將天國的福音傳遍天下,對 萬民作見證。這就是福音使命。

結語

詩篇雖然是以色列崇拜的詩歌,但 因聖靈的感動,作者道出神宣教的心意 。祂願意全地都向耶和華歌唱,而且更 提醒以色列人蒙福的目的是要將神的救 恩傳給萬國。「願神憐憫我們,賜福與 我們,用臉光照我們,好叫世界得知你 的道路,萬國得知你的救恩」(詩六十 七1,2)。

□作者爲「大使命中心」副會長。

The Balkan Awakening

Historic Happenings in the
First Balkan Evangelical Conference
September 6-7, 1996
Belgrade, Serbia (Former Yugoslavia)
-- BEC '96 --

Thomas Wang

God has turned a new page in the history of the churches in the Balkan Peninsula!

After almost five years of bitter racial conflicts, terrors of "Ethnic Cleansing", strives and frustrations in everyday life, church leaders of the Balkan countries during the past 16 months courageously dreamed, prayed, planned and prepared for a crucial gathering of evangelical church leaders from the Balkan nations. As a result, the First Balkan Evangelical Conference (BEC '96) took place in Belgrade, Serbia (former Yugoslavia), September 6-7, 1996.

BEC '96, with its root and inspiration traceable to GCOWE '95, Seoul, Korea, was attended by over 1,500 delegates. Because of lingering religious and political gaps between some of the Balkan countries, the number of delegates varied greatly, as follows:

- 900 Yugoslavia
 (Serbia and Montenegro jointly re-assumed the name of Yugoslavia)
- 140 Romania
- 120 Bulgaria
- 50 Macedonia
- 20 Hungary
- 12 Greece

In addition to the above, smaller number of delegates also came from Croatia, Bosnia and Albania, plus missionaries, speakers and visitors from overseas.

Preparation work of BEC '96 by its Organization Team headed by Rev. Lazar Stojsic, Associate Pastor of the Pentecostal Church of Belgrade, was not without serious road blocks. Prayer and perseverance have enabled them to overcome difficulties one by one; such as the scarcity of funding sources because of war, the lack of communication facilities, political and ethnic barriers among the new born states, continued tension between Muslims and Christians (Orthodox, Catholics), plus the problems of a last-minute change of

conference venue from the originally engaged SAVA Center to a downtown theater due to the repeated price hike by the former.

Organizers of BEC '96 were: Evangelical Alliance of Serbia, evangelical churches of Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Greece, etc. The supporters included AD2000 and Beyond Movement, European Evangelical Alliance, the New Eastern Europe for Christ Movement and the Great Commission Center. BEC '96 also enjoyed a broad-based participation by the denominations of the Balkan area.

Speakers of the two-day event included Dr. Aleksander Birvis (Serbia), Dr. John Taylor (Europe), Dr. Demostenes Katsarkas (Greece), Dr. Thomas Wang (USA), Rev. Stuart McAllister (UK), Rev. Pevle Cekov (Slovakia), Rev. Emil Burger (Romania), Rev. Petru Dugulescu (Romania), Rev. Victor Vircev (Bulgaria), Rev. Nikolaj Nedelcev (Bulgaria), etc.

With "HOPE FOR THE BALKANS" as the Conference theme, the announced goals and convictions of BEC '96 are four-fold:

- The voice of the evangelical church might be heard in the Balkans.
- To give hope for the Balkans through the unity of the evangelical Christians.
- 3. The preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ which brings hope, peace and love to all peoples.
- 4. The proclamation of peace and forgiveness among the peoples of the former Yugoslavia be found only in Jesus Christ.

The calling of repentance, revival and the evangelization of the Balkan peoples resounded loud and clear throughout the Conference in most of the plenaries. In no smaller measure, exhortations for reconciliation also came out strong. Rev. Pevle Cekov, Director of the New Eastern Europe for Christ Movement, himself a Macedonian, called upon the

Macedonian delegates to stand, bow and ask for forgiveness for the wrongdoings of their country to their neighbors. Hungarian church leaders also asked for forgiveness of whatever their nation did unjustly to other Balkan states. Much like GCOWE '95, the spirit of reconciliation and goodwill prevailed in the Conference.

Rev. Stuart McAllister, General Secretary of the European Evangelical Alliance, called for the "Uncovering of Christ" who has long been buried under the traditions of the traditional churches which still dominate much of the skyline of the "European Church" today.

Pastor Petru Dugulescu of the Pentecostal Church in Timisoara, Romania, a member of the Romanian Parliament who leads Bible studies for the Parliamentarians right in the office of the former Romanian dictator Ceacescu, exhorted the delegates on the Three Unmovable Possessions of the Church --- Faith, Love and Hope. He said, "Historically, Romania is a Christian country. Biblically, it is not."

Rev. Mirco Andreev, leader of the Macedonian Mission to the Balkans, made a persuasive <u>Second Macedonian Call!</u> As a Macedonian representing the Macedonian churches, and in a perfect fashion of Acts 16:9, he pleaded to the congregation and to the church worldwide, "Come and help us!"

At the closing session of the Conference, Dr. Thomas Wang, International Chairman of the AD2000 and Beyond Movement, shared the heavenly vision on Isaiah chapter six and emphasized the importance of the follow-up prospect of BEC '96. He said, "What will happen after the Conference is more important than what happens during the Conference."

At his suggestion, members of the Organization Team and national coordinators met after the meeting. They prayed, discussed and decided on the following:

- 1. At the invitation of Rev. Nikolaj Nedelcev, General Secretary of the Bulgarian Evangelical Alliance, it was decided that the Second Balkan Evangelical Conference will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, September, 1998 (BEC '98).
- For the preparation of BEC '98, members of the Organization Team and Material Coordinators will meet in Timisoara, Romania, December 14, 1996.
 Pastor Petru Dugulescu and his church will host this preparation meeting.
- 3. The possibility of holding BEC 2000 in Athens, Greece was also discussed but no decision has been made.

Ever since the Crusaders in the 11th century, Balkan countries have been the target of dictators and world powers. Sandwiched between Rome and Constantinople it has also been the vast area contended by both the Catholic and Orthodox churches. Because of the early demise of the West Roman Empire

(AD476) the Orthodox church gained pre-eminence in the region. That dominance however was later eclipsed by the invasion of the Turks in the 15th century who brought with them the Islam religion. The Turks thus ended the East Roman Empire (AD1453) and ruled the land for almost five centuries known as the Ottoman Empire. In the latter part of this period, some of the Balkan states came under the sway of the Austro-Hungarian Empire until the two recent World Wars occurred when part of the region, especially Croatia, was engulfed by Germany and Nazism.

Because of its proximity with Eastern Europe, the Balkan states until the few years past have lived under the shadow of the former Soviet Union with the former Yugoslavia under Marshall Tito serving as a cushion zone. After Tito died in 1980 the forced unity among the factions maintained by sheer power of the Marshall collapsed: When negotiations failed to close the gap, bitter and ferocious fightings accompanied by cruelty and savagery broke out in the past few years. And now, this fragile peace.

It is nothing short of a miracle that BEC '96 could have taken place at all. Massive mobilization of prayer is absolutely needed that this evangelical movement will continue to take root, to spread and to bear fruits. This indeed is the "Kairos Moment" for the Balkans!

We wish to call upon churches of the world to remember the Balkan peoples in your private and group prayers. They have suffered enough. Now is the time for restoration, reconciliation and redemption. May God bless you as you pray for them.

Thomas Wang is International Chairman of AD2000 and Beyond Movement, and President of Great Commission Center.



Balkan Conference Organizing Team

DECLARATION of the FIRST BALKAN EVANGELICAL CONFERENCE

We, the participants of the First Balkan Evangelical Conference, led by the Holy Spirit, call on Evangelical Christians:

To protect our faith in the same manner in which the Apostles brought it to the Balkans; regardless of all that has happened and is happening, because "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

To restore hope in a world which has been left without hope, because we are certain that nations cannot live with direction and Christ has revealed to us the glory of God for which it is worth to live and to die.

To abound in love because love is the only worthy basis of man's relationship with God, of man with man and nation with nation, which we consider especially crucial in these times of alienation and estrangement.

To not cease to regard righteousness in the Holy Spirit so that in all of our nations, apart from essential laws, virtues would be cultivated as well as the desire to do more for our neighbor than what is normally expected.

To preserve peace where it exists and to make every effort to establish peace where there is none, although we are aware that we cannot erase traces of the past in any way other than through the blood of Jesus Christ.

To not forget and thereby rob others of the joy of sins forgiven, on account of the comfort given to the repentant and on account of the Comforter who even today is mightily at work among us.

To praise God who has sent us His only Son and who will send Him again so that He might be all in all and that we remain a people set apart to worship Him from now and to eternity.

Belgrade, Sept. 7, 1996



Bulgarian Christian Orchestra

巴爾幹福音會議

巴爾幹的復甦

一九九六年九月六至七日在塞爾維亞(前南斯拉夫)貝爾格萊德舉行歷史性的第一屆巴爾幹福音大會

王永信著林成蔭譯

神在巴爾幹半島眾教會中展開了歷史新的一頁!

經歷了將近五年激烈的種族衝突、 殘酷的「種族滅絕」以及日常生活中各 種鬥爭及挫折,巴爾幹諸國的教會領袖 在過去十六個月中渴望、祈求、計劃了 一個集合各福音派教會領袖的會議。他 們的夢想終於在一九九六年九月六至七 日實現,第一屆巴爾幹福音大會在塞爾 維亞(前南斯拉夫)首都貝爾格萊德舉 行。

這會議的起源及激發,來自一九九五年在南韓漢城舉行的普世福音諮商大會(GCOWE '95)。由於巴爾幹各種族間宗教及政治問題仍未完全消除,來集會的各國代表人數差距甚大:南斯拉夫的各國代表人數差距甚大:南斯拉夫九百人(塞爾維亞及孟騰尼果兩國重新結合恢復南斯拉夫國名);羅馬尼亞一百四十人;保加利亞一百二十人;馬其頓五十人;匈牙利二十人;希臘十二人;其他較少人數來自克羅地亞、波斯尼亞及阿爾巴尼亞;另外有宜教士、講員及外國來賓等。

巴爾幹九六福音大會籌備委員會主席是貝爾格萊德五旬節教會副牧師史篤節牧師。籌備過程中,他們虔誠的禱告及堅定的毅力使他們勝過重重難關,諸如:多年戰事令他們遇到經濟上的困難;通訊設備的缺乏;新生國家之間政治與種族的藩籬;回教徒與基督徒(東正

教及天主教)之間不斷的張力等。加上 臨開會前因原定開會場所屢次加價,而 需從SAVA中心遷至市中一戲院。

會議的籌備者是塞爾維亞福音派教會聯盟及保加利亞、羅馬尼亞、馬其頓、希臘等國的福音派教會。贊助者包括主後二千福音遍傳運動、歐洲福音派教會聯盟、新東歐歸主運動,及大使命中心。巴爾幹區各宗派也廣泛參予這次會議。

兩天會議中講員包括貝維斯博士(塞爾維亞)、載約翰博士(歐洲)、卡 薩克博士(希臘)、王永信博士(美國)、麥克禮牧師(英國)、謝可夫牧師 (斯羅瓦基亞)、柏格爾牧師(羅馬尼 亞)、杜顧萊牧師(羅馬尼亞)、弗且 牧師(保加利亞)、尼德且牧師(保加 利亞)等。

大會主題是「巴爾幹的希望」,有 四項公佈的目標及信念:

- 1. 願巴爾幹的人民都能聽到福音派教會 所傳的信息。
- 額福音派基督徒的合一帶給巴爾幹人 民新的希望。
- 3. 基督耶穌那帶希望、平安和愛的福音 能普傳至萬民。
- 4. 宜告只有在耶穌基督裏,前南斯拉夫 分裂的種族能彼此饒恕及得到平安。

這呼籲彼此饒恕、教會復興,及向

巴爾幹人傳福音的信息,在大堂聚會中很有力並很清晰地被傳出。講員並特別注重勸勉彼此復和。東歐歸主運動總幹事謝可夫牧師本身是馬其頓人,他請馬其頓的代表起立,對會眾鞠躬,爲他們國家對鄰邦所作的惡行求饒恕。匈牙利教會領袖也爲他們國家對其他巴爾幹國家所行的不義求饒恕。如同在GCOWE '95中那樣,復和及彼此相愛的氣氛瀰漫在這次大會中。

歐洲福音派教會聯盟總幹事麥克禮 牧師勉勵會眾「向人彰顯基督」,因爲 今日歐洲的教會多數仍受傳統教會的傳 統限制,沒有向人彰現基督。

羅馬尼亞提未所拉五旬節教會的杜顧萊牧師傳講教會三個不動產 「信、望、愛」。他說:「根據歷史,羅馬尼亞是基督教國家;但依聖經來看,這並非事實。」杜牧師也是羅馬尼亞國會議員,他就在前獨裁者壽西斯古的辦公廳中帶領議員查經。

馬其頓的巴爾幹傳道會領袖安菊夫

牧師向大會提出了一個有力的「第二次 馬其頓呼擊」。他身爲馬其頓人,代表 馬其頓教會,忠於使徒行傳十六9的模 式,向會眾及普世教會呼求:「請來幫 助我們!」

在閉幕禮中,主後二千運動主席及 大使命中心會長王永信博士,分享以賽 亞書第六章從天上來的異象,強調此次 會議跟進工作的重要性。他說:「會議 後的工作,比會議中的工作更重要。」

在他的建議之下,大會籌備委員及 各國聯絡員會後召開會議。經過禱告及 討論,他們決定:

- 應保加利亞福音派教會聯盟總幹事尼德且牧師之邀請,於一九九八年在保加利亞首都索菲亞召開第二屆巴爾幹福音大會。
- 2. 爲籌備巴爾幹九八福音大會,杜顧萊 牧師及其教會將於一九九六年十二月 十四日,在羅馬尼亞提未所拉招待大 會籌備委員及聯絡員。
- 3. 會中也曾討論主後二千年在希臘雅典

召開巴爾幹二千福音大會 的可能性,但未作任何決 定。

自從十一世紀十字軍 東征以來,巴爾幹半島諸 國成爲獨裁者及世界強權 的侵佔目標。同時因其位 在羅馬與君士坦丁堡之間 ,她也成爲天主教與東正 教教會領域競爭之處。由 於早期西羅馬帝國的衰敗 (主後四七六年),東正 教在此區域佔得優勢。但 至十五世紀土耳其人入侵 , 帶來回教, 壓過東正教 ; 在主後一四五三年滅絕 東羅馬帝國,佔據此領域 達 万世紀之久,成爲奧圖 曼帝國一部分。在此後期



巴爾幹半島毗鄰的國家

,一些巴爾幹國家服於奧匈帝國勢力之下,直至第一及第二次世界大戰期間, 部分巴爾幹半島(特別是克羅地亞)完 全受德國及納粹主義影響。

因爲此區近東歐,數年前巴爾幹半島的人還生活在前蘇聯的陰影之下;受 狄托元帥控制的南斯拉夫成爲東西勢力 之間的一緩衝地帶。狄托一九八〇年死 後,他以武力強制形成的國家四分五裂 。當和平談判失敗後,最近幾年這區爆 發強烈及殘酷的戰爭,帶來慘無人道的 事件。現今才有一個很脆弱的和平。 巴爾幹九六福音大會之能舉行,實在是一個神蹟。非有龐大動員禱告的支持,不能使這福音運動繼續生根、發展及結果。這的確是巴爾幹人民的「機會時刻」!

我們呼求普世教會在私禱及公禱中 記念巴爾幹的人民。他們已受盡艱辛, 現在是復原、復和及蒙救贖的日子。在 爲他們祈求之際,願神賜福予你們。

□作者爲「主後二千普世福音遍傳運動」國際董事會主席,「大使命中心」會長。

第一屆巴爾幹福音大會宣言

我們這群參加第一屆巴爾幹福音大會者,得著聖靈的帶領,呼求普世福音派基督徒:

無論以往或現在發生任何事,維護我們的信心,如同使徒最初將福音傳到 巴爾幹半島那般;「耶穌基督昨日、今日,一直到永遠,都不改變。」

在這失去盼望的世界重新建立**盼望**,因為確信百姓生活不能無定向;而基督已向我們顧示神的榮耀,我們值得為此而生,為此而死。

豐豐滿滿地表露變心,因為愛是人神關係、人際關係、國際關係惟一有效的基礎,特別在這離異錯亂的世代中更是如此。

永不忽視聖靈視之為公義的事,以致我們各人除遵守法律以外,都追求德 行並願善待鄰舍過於一般的標準。

保守現有的和平並盡力在有紛爭之處建立和平,儘管我們明知除了靠著耶穌基督的實血以外,我們無法塗抹以往的冤仇。

為著神賜給悔罪者的安慰,並為著那至今仍彰現大能的保惠師,不要忘記 我們蒙恩得赦罪時之**喜樂**,並與人分享此樂。

讚美神; 祂已差遣祂的獨生愛子,並要再次差遣祂,讓祂充滿萬有,並使 我們分別為聖為敬拜祂的子民,從今直到永遠。

一九九六年九月七日訂於貝爾格萊德

主後二千普世福音遍傳運動

陳惠文

「主後二千普世福音遍傳運動」自從一九八九年被主興起來,於短短六、七年中,在基督教界裏(包括天主教和東正教),已經成爲一個舉世聞名的運動。凡是對宣教有負擔的基督徒,或多或少都曾聽過,甚至參與「主後二千普世福音遍傳運動」在一百多個國家中所推動的事工,例如九五年在漢城舉行的GCOWE '95及爲10/40之窗的禱告運動。

簡史

「主後二千普世福音遍傳運動」是 由華人教會領袖王永信牧師所發起。 1987年春, 當王牧師仍擔任洛桑委員會 (Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization) 國際主任時,某夜,他輾轉不能入睡, 彷彿聽見神在天上敲響警鐘,呼喚基督 徒們積極將福音遍傳。正愁思如何號召 普世教會遍傳福音之際,忽然想起日間 所讀到幾個宗派和機構的報導,它們都 以主後二千年作事工發展的目標,王牧 師深感神要對普世教會說話,於是連忙 起床揮筆寫成「主後二千年 — 神對我 們說甚麼?」(By the Year 2000 -- What is God Trying to Tell Us?)。初稿完成後,他 即寄出給全球教會領袖, 徵詢他們的意 見。不到兩個月,即收到超過四十封回 信,響應積極推動福音遍傳的必須性。

該文後來刊於洛桑委員會的期刊 《 福音普傳》(World Evangelization)八七年 六月號中,引起更多迴響。一些教會領 袖們更在八九年初召開一次「普世福音事工諮商會議」(Global Consultation on World Evangelization, GCOWE I),號召全球教會攜手合作,訂定可行的目標,將福音遍傳普世。

王牧師原建議洛桑委員會以主後二 千福音遍傳爲他們事工的方向和目標, 但由於洛桑事工廣泛,委員會同工擔子 沉重,無法兼顧主後二千福音遍傳運動 之推動,因此「主後二千普世福音遍傳 運動」便成爲一個新的運動了。

八九年第二屆洛桑大會(Lausanne II in Manila)後,「主後二千普世福音遍傳 運動」(以下簡稱普世二千運動)正式 成立,王永信牧師被選爲國際主席。第 一次董事會是在王牧師加州的府上舉行 。飯廳權充會議室,而客廳在夜間就改 爲宿舍,董事們席地而睡。在剛成立的 差不多兩年內,沒有全職同工(王牧師 的全職是大使命中心的會長),也沒有 辦事處,在王牧師的帶領下,一切事工 的策劃及推行,全由義工負責。九〇年 七月, Rev. Luis Bush在王牧師多次邀請 下就任爲國際主任(International Director) 。但直至九一年四月才能正式放下 Partners International的工作,成爲普世二 千運動的全職同工。同年七月,在科羅 拉多州的Colorado Springs市正式成立辦 事處。

普世二千運動以號召全球各地教會 有策略地將福音遍傳爲宗旨。他們的目 標是:在主後二千年時,每一個群體都 設有教會,每一個人都有機會聽聞福音 (A Church for Every People and the Gospel for Every Person by the Year 2000)。

自從八九年神將普世二千運動的負擔放在一群教會領袖的心中,現已漸漸成爲一個普世性的福音運動。九五年在漢城舉行的GCOWE'95,超過一百八十六個國家的代表參加,因此被譽爲「五旬節以來代表性最廣泛的大會」。

特性

(一) 忠於實行主耶穌的大使命吩咐

普世二千運動的目標是將福音傳遍 天下,使世界上每一個人都有聽聞福音 的機會; 這是主耶穌大使命的吩咐:「你 們要往普天下去,傳福音給萬民聽」。

(二)超越國界、地域、種族和言語

在教會歷史中,宣教運動通常都是由一個(或一小群)人開始,其影響力只伸延至一個或數個區域,一個或數個種族,而且需時頗長;但普世二千運動在短短幾年內,已遍及各大洲,目前已參加普世二千運動的國家或地區超過一百個。它們組成地區性聯絡網,通過不同的管道,推動普世各國福音遍傳事工。

(三)集思廣益、群策群力

基本而言,普世二千運動是一個先知性的聲音、教會合作的橋樑,號召普世教會領袖們爲福音遍傳而群策群力,摒棄種族、國界及宗派的障礙,在主裏坦誠交流,分享經驗和資源。普世二千運動已組成十個資源聯絡網(Resource Network),協助研究並推動各項福音工作。

(四) 認定目標、校正焦點-10/40之窗

該運動最終的目的是世界上每一個 人都有機會聽聞福音。若要達到此目的 ,我們必須盡全力關注那些從未有機會 接觸福音的地區及群體。這些未得之群 體,超過90%以上是在10/40之窗(從亞 洲到非洲,北緯10°至40°)內。假若這些 群體都聽聞福音,福音遍傳就可在望。

(五)國際領導、義工配搭

普世二千運動自始至今,都由國際 董事會(International Board)領導。國際董 事會成員分別來自歐、亞、非及南、北 美洲等地,有不同文化和背景,因此可 顧及各地的需要。另一方面,所有董事 會成員、專題小組負責人、各地區聯絡 人均是義工,大家出錢出力;甚至辦公 室所有同工,上自國際主任,下至辦公 室文員,都是自籌薪水。主後二千普世 福音遍傳運動,可說是一個義工運動。

事工

爲協助各地教會認識並展開不同事工,普世二千運動選定十個專題,邀請專家們組成資源聯絡網(Resource Network)及專題推動小組(Task Forces),按時商討並發佈有關資料。

(一) 資源聯絡網

- 一、未得之群體(Unreached Peoples)
- 二、城市歸主(Reaching the Cities)
- 三、婦女動員(Mobilization of Women)
- 四、神的話與基督教文字工作(God's Word and Christian Literature)
- 五、敬拜與藝術(Worship and the Arts)
- 六、傳播(Media)
- 七、聯合禱告動員(Mobilization of United Prayer)
- 八、全面性佈道及小組領袖發展 (Saturation Evangelism and Small

Group Leadership Development)

- 九、新宣教士動員(Mobilization of New Missionaries)
- 十、宗派動員(Mobilization of Denominations)

最近,多處地區更建議成立兒童動 員網絡(Global Network for Children),目 前尙在籌劃階段。

- (二) 專題推動小組
 - 一、夥伴推動(Partnership Development)
 - 二、互助(Interactive)
 - 三、評估(Assessment)
 - 四、廣播(Radio)
 - 五、翻譯(Translation)
 - 六、錄音(Audio Recordings)
 - 七、回教地區植堂(Church Planting Among Muslims)
 - 八、人群群體資料網(Peoples Information Network)
- 九、策略與資源拓展(Strategy & Resource Development)
- 十、災荒救濟(Disaster Relief & Development)
- 十一、植堂運動訓練(Training for Church Planting Movement)

地區委員會(Regions)

爲協助事工在廣度(全球)和深度 (地區)的發展,普世二千運動成立了 地區委員會並委任地區聯絡人。地區劃 分如下:

- (一) 東北亞(North East Asia)
- (二) 東南亞(South East Asia)
- (三) 南亞(South Asia)
- (四) 中亞(Central Asia)
- (五)阿拉伯國家(Arab World)
- (六)中東波斯灣(Middle East Gulf)

- (七) 北美(North America)
- (八) 北亞(North Asia)
- (九) 東歐(Eastern Europe)
- (十)西歐(德語地區)(Western Europe [German])
- (十一) 西班牙語地區(Hispanic)
- (十二)拉丁美洲(葡語地區) (Latin America [Portuguese])
- (十三) 迦勒比海區(Caribbean)
- (十四) 非洲(Africa)

1997-2000年 主要聚會

1997年 1月27-30日 巴西Belo 巴西福音遍傳諮商會議

> 3月3-6日 星加坡 東南亞諮商會議

6月30-7月5日 南非Pretoria 普世福音諮商會議(GCOWE '97)

1998年 7月 匈牙利 普世福音諮商會議(GCOWE '98)

> 尼泊爾 喜馬拉雅山區第二屆福音會議 (HIM-COE '98)

2000年 以色列 普世福音諮商會議(GCOWE 2000)

結語

感謝主恩,主後二千普世福音遍傳 運動是一個屬靈運動,是一個結合理論 與實踐的普及運動,是一個跨越種族、 言語、文化的宣教運動,是普世教會充 份合作的運動,是信徒以遵行大使命爲 首要的運動,值得普世基督徒的代禱、 支持、參與及投身。

口作者爲「大使命中心」副會長。

大使命中心事工

東干事工長期計劃

自從大使命中心哈薩克短宣隊於九 五年四月,在阿拉木圖附近偶遇了幾位 「東干回民」後,「東干」這個被遺忘 了一百多年的民族,頻頻在華人教會, 甚至西方教會的刊物中出現,成爲一個 備受注意的未得之民。

東干人的祖先是中國陝西回民,他 們是在1860年間「陝甘回亂」後逃至哈 薩克斯坦和吉爾吉斯坦的遺民。在過去 一百多年間已由三千多人,增長至十萬 之多。

他們自力更生,自成一群,與外界 甚少聯繫。這次回民協會會長正式邀請 大使命中心差派二十多名專業人士協助 當地社區發展,實在是神爲我們開啓接 觸東干回民難得的管道。

九五年十月大使命中心第一次派遣

短期服務隊,前往東干民族聚居的馬山清村及白銀虎村,探討醫療、工程、語文教育各項服務的可能性及範疇。九六年五月開始,每月均有服務隊在當地工作(九月除外)。據東干事工主任楊嘉善善長老的統計,截至十月底爲止,已有差不多一百人次(有些隊員曾赴東干兩次或以上)自費前往東干服務。

東干是一個新開發的工場,各項事工尚在探索階段。爲更有效的服事東干回民,大使命中心於七月底曾寄發調查問卷予各曾參加東干服務隊的隊員,廣泛徵詢他們對東干事工的意見。並於八月卅一至九月一日在大使命中心召開東干事工檢討及長期策劃會議,邀請多位願意較長期投身東干事工的隊員參加。該兩日會議由大使命中心會長王永信牧



東干事工策劃會議於八月三十一日至九月一日在大使命中心舉行。

師主持。

首日會議著重在回顧過去一年東干事工的進展,包括短期服務隊的招募、成員資格、服務範圍及工作果效、東干事工與大使命中心整體事工的配搭等。次日會議則著重未來的計劃及人手安排。綜合兩日會議的重要決定如下:

一、確認東干事工是福音預工

大家一致同意東干事工仍在福音預工階段。在一個回教社會中工作,必須透過各項專業服務先行鬆土,並以誠摯的友誼取得他們的信任,以生命的感召力在他們中間越來越多見證基督的愛。

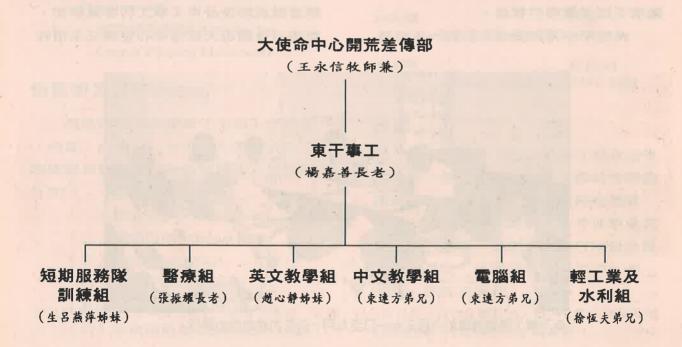
二、訂定東干事工推展的細則及 事工範疇

出席者重溫大使命中心與東干回民 協會會長的合約,衡量東干民族的需要 及華人基督徒可給予的幫助,訂定事工 推廣細則和範疇。

- (一)醫療服務:包括中醫、西醫、針 灸、牙科、腳底按壓等服務。
- (二)英文教學:爲當地學校提供有專業訓練的英語教學人才。
- (三)中文教學: 盼當地學校能將中文 科納入選修科目範圍,並透過該 地唯一報紙,教授實用中文,掀 起回民對中文的興趣。
- (四)電腦教授:設立課餘或工餘電腦 補習教育。
- (五)輕工業及水利工程:協助提供建立罐頭廠和羊毛廠、開鑿魚池及發展漁殖等輕工業技術。

三、委任東干事工義務同工

大使命中心於去年十月委任楊嘉善 長老爲義務東干事工主任;但有見於東 干事工範圍廣闊,需更多有專業訓練的 義工策劃各組工作及徵召短期、中期人 才,建議成立六個小組協助東干事工的 發展,並即時委任義務同工如下:



四、加強短期服務隊隊員甄選及訓練

東干民族所處的環境與一般宜教工場不同,因此參加東干服務隊的隊員必須經過嚴格的甄選及訓練。出席者建議成立甄選及訓練小組,檢討現行報名及甄選過程,並作必要的修訂。更盼能增加前赴工場的準備(包括屬重及心理準備、工場語言及文化熟習、生活的適應、當地宗教信仰認識等)、工場輔導及工作檢討等,務使隊員持守同一目標,同一心志,並且在每次行程中都有所學習。

五、成立東干宣教聯誼會 (Dungan Alumni Club)

爲使短宜隊員繼續保持聯絡,並繼續加強他們對宜教的負擔,建議成立東 干宜教聯誼會,以期在推動代禱、招募 人才及籌募經費方面有貢獻。並邀請黃 抗及陳瑞苓伉儷爲聯絡人,負責籌備成 立事宜。

六、歡迎東干回民協會會長到訪

本年十一月二十四日至十二月八日 ,東干回民協會會長將陪同哈薩克斯坦 占布州州長和縣長等,來美作私人訪問 。爲與該國政府首長建立友誼,以便日 後在入境簽證、社區發展事工上取得政 府方面的協助,大使命中心及東干短宜 隊員願意負責他們四位在美國的行程安 排及食宿等。

東干事工主任楊嘉善長老將陪同他們前赴各地參觀,並發動短宜隊隊員接待。

此外,廖有基弟兄將協助有關電腦 方面的支援,例如俄文的軟件、東干短 宜隊員電子郵遞聯絡網,及東干與大使 命中心之間的聯繫等。而生竭頌醫生則 負責東干二十四小時禱告網的建立,推 動有力的禱告運動。禱告運動已於十月 一日開始。



東干回民協會會長同意將馬山清村中最佳一幢房屋(原爲兒童院,最近數年停用)之三分之二給大使命中心使用,首期五年。房屋經年未曾全部使用,樓上、樓下均需大事重修。裝修費約需要美金二萬元, 請弟兄姊妹們多代禱。此房屋重修後,將作爲診所、課室、宿舍、餐廳、廚房之用。當然也將設禱告及 崇拜室。

大使命中心事工

A Short Term Mission Trip to Kazakhstan

Joseph Y. Liauw

About 120 years ago ancestors of the Dungan people fled from Shaanxi and Gansu provinces of China to Masanchi, Kazakhstan, following a failed uprising against the then Qing emperor. Though descendants of the Hui ethnic minority in China sharing the same Islam faith, they kept themselves apart from the Kazakhs.

To this people came the GCC Short-Term Mission Team of 18. We stayed and worked in Masanchi and a nearby village Byinhoo from May 10 to 28. Half stayed for two weeks, the rest myself included, three weeks.

The Dungan language derives from the Shaanxi-Gansu dialect. Russian is also widely used as Kazakhstan was part of the former USSR. We talked with the Dungans in Mandarin, with many repetitions, signs, and sketches. Often not much was said, even after hours of arduous interchange. But we always ended with a good laugh and maybe some mutual understanding.

Decades under Soviet rule caused the Dungans to be wary of outsiders, yet they welcome us as if long lost "cousins." To us they are generous and hospitable. I believe our freedom to travel, live, and work among them was not happenstance. We witnessed God's

perfect timing to bring together two worlds so far apart. Although we held no evangelistic meetings nor distributed any gospel tracts, we had opportunities to share God's working in our lives one-to-one with the Dungans, Kazakhs, Kyrghyzs, Germans, Russians, and even Chinese tourists we met. Often they asked questions about us that led to discussions of God. Some were quite amenable to the gospel. At the farewell dinner, the president of the Masanchi Dungan Association and other dignitaries spoke of their amazement that most team members had never met each other before gathering at JFK Airport, that we were not GCC employees, nor friends from the same place. It also boggled their mind that we would travel so far to labor as volunteers! The president concluded that it must be the love of God moving us to come help his people. Praise the Lord! Our purpose IS to share God's love with them, and they got the point.

We had many daily activities, the most important one being morning devotions. We got up usually at 6:30, devotion starting at 7:30, finishing around 9. It is important as the Lord always filled us with strength and joy. Though only 18 of us, our hymn singing reverberated with power and conviction. We read the Scriptures, prayed, meditated, and shared with each



Over 100 years ago, Chinese Muslims, driven out by the Manchu Government, fled from Shaanxi, Gansu to Xianjang. They climbed over the Tian Shan Mountain and entered Kazakhstan from the Challok Pass, which is about 40 miles from Masanchi.

other the blessings and admonition from God. These moments helped strengthen our unity in Christ. Considered leaders in churches and used to doing things wherever, we all felt quite inadequate after our first day in Kazakhstan. Like vulnerable children, we faced many unexpected turn of events any day. Only the strength and the joy of the Lord enabled us to smile at or laugh with the people and each other. Often we could only offer a prayer or to hum the songs we sang that morning, yet instantly renewed within. Prayers averted potential disasters facing us head-on and God faithfully guided our team in many crises. Mighty warriors doing a veni, vidi, vici for God in Kazakhstan we were not. We survived the unexpected solely by His mercy and we learned definitely that following God every step of the way was not optional.

Evening brought spiritual respite and encouragement when scores of children gathered to sing in our front yard. We taught and sang with them English and Chinese songs of praise. They responded with enthusiasm, bright smiles, and eagerness. May the choruses they now sing be the well planted seeds of God's salvation in their hearts.

The team loosely divided into four task groups. A clinic was set up in one wing of our building; and over 1000 patients came for various treatments. The computer group installed a new computer for village administration and the publication of a Masanchi newspaper. The education group of mainly seven taught English and Chinese at two schools in each village. In Masanchi, the engineering group drew up plans to improve water distribution and to upgrade a hospital. Many of us wore multiple hats with different tasks. Working conditions as they were, our top

priority was to pray for and look after each other. Cooperative spirit facilitated smooth completion of many tasks.

About 25, 000 Dungans live in Masanchi and Byinhoo. Masanchi is the name of a Dungan hero, a high ranking military officer in the Stalin era. By(White) In(Silver) Hoo(Tiger) is the Chinese name of the leader who led them out of China over a century ago. Sortobe is the Russian name of the village, only recently built, populated and with infrastructure much better than that of Masanchi. Some 200 kilometers south of the village is the Tian (Heavenly) Shan (Mountain) range extending from western China to Kyrghyzstan for thousands of miles. Its perpetual snow-cap rises over 20,000 feet. To say that the vista is magnificient is an understatement. Sunrises and sunsets are truly sights to behold. On a clear day (almost everyday) spectacular array of white sierra peaks does make mountains seem to float in the heavens.

Though considered slightly better off than other Kazakhs, most Dungans are not rich by western standards. Masanchi resembles certain remote areas in the U.S., with electricity available about six hours a day, virtually no telephone service, and no running water in most homes. About every ten households share one water outlet by the roadside. Water is available for a few hours in the morning and evening. Private bathrooms are few. Public bath-houses are used for banya (shower). While there, we each had three precious banyas! In the outhouses we squatted over a pit, naturally, amidst super ninja ammonia.

After the USSR break-up, Kazakhstan was swept up in economic, social, and political reforms. While embracing western notions of freedom, certain



Short-term team members and Vice President of the Dungan Cultural Center (second right in the front row) enjoyed their friendship with the Dungan people.

innocence in character is lost in the process. Pent-up desires and hopes for better living translate into runaway consumerism. The most visible signs are automobiles even in the villages, and thriving markets for "brand-name" clothing, cosmetics, electronic goods, etc. High demand for such things is partly fueled by television with daily barrage of western programs and advertisement. Since to many Dungans we were the first North Americans in real life they ever met but clearly unlike Bruce Lee, Jackie Chan, or soap-opera characters they know so well, it is our prayer and hope that their curiosity about us would lead them to the source of our inspiration in life --- the Lord Jesus Himself.

True to the cooperation agreement signed last October with GCC, the Dungans provided us food and lodging. We were given a two-story building, formerly a nursery school in the Soviet era with pint-size furniture. The building had been locked up for five years, hence relatively free of bugs and critters. For water supply, a small tanker was hauled in and parked in the very lush backyard with tall grass and giant dandelions (nobody mows lawn here). We washed up, brushed teeth, and did laundry in the yard. Turtle doves, pigeons, chickadees, and other colorful birds provided musical accompaniment, and sound of rushing water from a nearby stream added special effect. What a tranquil setting to wash up in the cool morning!

Our building is one of the best in Masanchi, yet we became somewhat isolated from the general populace, although locals would just pop in to visit, and many children always played in the front yard, the playground of their nursery days. We knew we must initiate steps to reach the people. So, we would stroll



Mobile Gas Station in Kazakhstan.

down the dusty village roads, shake people's hands and introduce ourselves. We also routinely explored Masanchi after supper. Soon we see more familiar faces and acquaintances were made. We also visited homes of patients, students, local leaders, neighbors. etc. Often opportunities were there to share the gospel and to pray for the household. It was not long before we received invitations "to have tea" with them, thus beginning to understand and appreciate the depth of Dungan hospitality. The tea itself is rather insignificant. It is what generously spread on the floor or table that easily overwhelm you. The rule of thumb is not to accept invitation for "tea" after a meal, if one is not used to handle extra large portions. In turn, we were pleased that almost daily a few Dungans would dine at our house.

There is generally no shortage of food (each house has a vegetable garden), but variety is limited. For meat we had lamb and occasionally beef. The ubiquitous multipurpose chiu-chai, which looks identical to ordinary grass, appeared in almost every meal! I had never eaten so much grass in my life! After the first week, our pantry was nearly empty. So we relied on soup and Dungan noodles cooked in milk. Luckily, we brought a large stock of instant noodles and some canned food. Then some Dungans went to the mountains to pick wild rhubarb which became our fiber supplement. After a few days of such challenging diet, we decided to buy food and cook for ourselves. For this we had to go to Tokmok market in the neighboring country Kyrghyzstan. Weight lost in Masanchi requires no effort at all! Today when I stand in a store and see the plentitude before me, my thoughts go back to Masanchi with a poignant feeling. My Dungan friends can and must survive with far less. May God be gracious to us still. There are many tasks and challenges in that part of the world. Many are yet to take up Christ's Great Commission, "Go ye, therefore ..." Two millennia ago our Lord set an example by emptying Himself of His Godhead, and incarnating into a world that rejected and crucified Him. To emulate Him in a small way, we too must go now, leaving behind the comfort and security of home even for just a while, before it is too late.

**The article is condensed by Samuel C. Y. Ling.Joseph Y. Liauw is associate professor of computer science at University of the Pacific, Stockton, Ca.

宣教工場報告

高崇志

感謝神奇妙的帶領,讓我過去兩年來在歐洲的各處宣教工場參與開荒、建 立教會與牧養的服事。現就這段期間所 見所聞的親身經歷,與各位分享。

(一)俄國聖彼得堡

我第一次到達聖彼得堡的時間是 1995年2月。聖彼得堡是前蘇聯第二大都 市,也是俄國西岸北部第一大城,約有 六百萬人口,中國人在此地有三千人左 右。當時正值嚴多,冰天雪地,流經市 中心的涅瓦河全都冰封。港外芬蘭灣及 波羅的海海面,到處是浮冰雪山,寒冷 異常。這裏是俄國屬歐洲的東歐地區, 十分靠近北極圈。在亞熱帶台灣長大又 移民到加州的我,還是第一次在這種環 境中生活,不論言語、食物、交通和衣 著都跟以往完全不同。一邊適應一邊展 開傳福音的工作,由幾位已信主的會友 帶領睪找各大學的中國留學生,及市場 上擺地攤的個體戶。另外也與韓國和美 國的宣教士合作,解決教會聚會場所和 居留問題。

在我服事過程中,難忘一個一個單純、好奇又渴慕的留學生,他們不辭勞苦,長途跋涉地來到教會,到我的居所探零真理,要真正明白生命之道與人生的方向。當地信徒在未信主前,許多人已感到失落、徬徨、沉淪與無奈,他們對耶穌基督的愛是那麼迫切渴慕,得著時又是那麼珍惜與感激,使我深受感動

。三千華人中只有一位傳道人在他們之中,心裏感到十分急切,常在禱告中專問主,如何才能將福音種子撒遍這片土地。並且,求主差遭更多宣教同工來一同收割。後來,有機會帶領香港建道神學院教師曾景雯及短宣隊前去,當我們必須乘火車離開時,來送行的弟兄姊妹,在火車最後一聲汽笛拉響後仍不忍離去。火車開動時,他們竟然在窗外跟著火車跑起來,手向我們不斷地伸過來,期望能再抓到些甚麼。在窗內與窗外的我們都哭了。我永遠忘不了那個離別的清晨,對他們是何等懷念,因爲知道他們的無助,神使我們的愛互相摸到內心真實的感受。

直到現在,聖彼得堡仍無固定的傳道人,有十多個會友以團契形式聚會。基督教異端耶和華見證人在當地十分猖獗。有一位從東北來的青年獻身在俄國神學院受造就,盼望將來可以在當地工作。美國林維楷牧師曾幾次以數月的時間前往牧養,對他們有極大貢獻。感謝主,大使命中心靈修主任王志學博士,將於明年一月舉家前往聖彼得堡從事宜教工作,牧養該地教會。首期半年以後憑主繼續帶領,願大家爲他全家禱告。

(二)俄國莫斯科

我在莫斯科服事將近一年。該城約 有一千萬人口,華人有五萬人左右。當 地的治安十分惡劣,自從蘇聯解體後, 黑道、白道唯利是圖,幾乎所有在莫斯科的華人都出過事。我曾被騙錢一次、搶錢兩次。另外有同工被打,許多會友在市場或路上,被搶、被打、被殺。當地的教會也曾有些風波,流氓多次來打人鬧事,警察勒索搶劫,幫派仇恨兇殺等。但神更顯出祂大能的作爲,一批真誠認罪悔改的男女湧入教會,一位接著一位的經歷神蹟奇事,生命得到莫大的改變。更有十多位蒙神呼召的忠心同工在參予服事,他們都願意預備自己讓主使用。

莫斯科事工蒙神大大的祝福,福音 遍傳。現在有兩個教會及三個在商業樓 宇襄的佈道所。台福教會在不斷地參予 後有更大的負擔與感動,因而成立了普 世宣教的豐盛生命中心,在大使命中心 的邀請下,將整個莫斯科事工承接下來 。兩年多來,在莫斯科的開荒佈道中, 估計已有一萬五千多人聽聞福音,大小 型佈道會共計有七十多場,約有兩千人 決志信主。在最黑暗的土壤裏,真理的 種子開出最燦爛的花朵,是又真又活的 神自己作成的明證。

莫斯科的福音工作仍有極大的需要 ,特別是需要更多全時間傳道人,及有 能力作培訓的同工,牧養與訓練牧會人 才。另外,當地的異端真耶穌教會與耶 和華見證人都很活躍,引起很多信徒的 迷惑,需要有分辨真道的訓練。

在莫斯科,屬靈的爭戰很猛烈。我 在當地服事時,天天帶領同工晨禱與晚 禱,經歷神豐富的恩典,常被神的靈所 充滿。面對一波又一波的困難,不斷地 靠主剛強得勝。特別當我因急性盲腸炎 而在莫斯科醫院開刀後,傷口又被細菌 感染時,病臥異地他鄉,心中有說不出 來的擔憂;但經過各地同工代禱和當地 弟兄姊妹細心照顧,神安慰了我,使我 走過死蔭的幽谷,得到完全的平安與釋放。每次想到在莫斯科這些愛的經歷,我的心都溶化了,真是把自己破碎了似的傾倒在工場上,深深地體會到若要救靈魂,就要捨命與拼命。

(三)匈牙利布達佩斯

五年前有一位韓國金牧師到布達佩 斯開荒,成立了布達佩斯華人教會。但 因語言溝通問題,教會牧養及教導工作 急需華人牧者接替。布達佩斯的華人大 多是在三個華人群集的商場中擺攤的生 意人,許多都是拜佛的福建三民人。匈 牙利是東歐的心臟地帶,自從開放後經 歷了急劇而又徹底的轉變。雖原先與蘇 聯一樣實行共產社會主義,但改革後迅 速接納西方文化。目前在匈牙利使用英 語已可通行無阻,可能因爲該國比俄國 小很多而較易轉變吧。當地的信徒有志 服事主的人不少,但擺攤的生活使時間 很有限,經濟上的壓力也不少。然而比 起俄國來說已有天壤之別。這裏環境舒 適,治安良好,消費物美價廉,一片繁 榮進步的氣息。我在布達佩斯時發現, 當地同工及會眾因長期缺乏教牧輔導, 靈命增長有限,只參加主日崇拜,少傳 福音。他們極需奮與和餵養。現在大使 命中心宣教士簡文騰牧師一家,在當地 第二間華人教會作牧養工作。布達佩斯 的商場地大人多,個人佈道的需要很大 ,若有更多短宜隊來作個人佈道的話, 會有很大的幫助。我曾每週去商場兩次 ,一個多月還走不完這些密佈中國人的 大商場,心中真是焦急。見到人海似的 骨肉之親,卻都在救恩門外,若是今日 主再來,他們將會是何等的悲愴?我不 斷地要自己再多走幾步,再多找幾個人 談道,直到體力用盡,唇乾舌躁,聲音 沙啞。但仍感到福音的債深欠難償……

(四)西班牙

結束了東歐之行,一下子神開路到 了歐洲最西邊的西班牙。此處完全是資 本主義的社會型態。西班牙以農業及旅 遊業爲主。因此,西班牙的居民和來此 地的華人,大部分都是從事與飲食業及 旅遊業相關的行業。此爲當地的兩大特 色。此處華人有百分之九十以上是浙江 青田及溫州來開餐館的。當地的華人教 會是由來自中國的信徒以家庭教會的模 式建立,信徒彼此連絡聚集,產生了七 個地方性的教會。十年來默默耕耘,有 的如巴塞隆納的教會,會眾已達三百多 人,其他地方由四十人至七十人不等。 一直以來,都是由當地同工帶職事奉, 輪流供應來維持教會,但缺乏全時間的 牧者來長期統籌帶領和牧養。感謝主給 我機會與王永信牧師在西班牙教會邀請 下,巡迴佈道,並受邀在首都馬德里的 教會作牧養、栽培的工作, 密切地與當

整個歐洲大約有一百萬華人,但華人牧者卻寥寥可數。 平均來說,兩萬人還分不到 一位全時間的牧者。這是全 世界華人牧者和宣教士要重 新對焦的重點。

地同工會友潛心研究真道。神大大地動工,透過查經、禱告、個人陪談、教牧輔導、主日學及主日崇拜,會友人數迅速增加。十二位弟兄姊妹經過一個月的 慕道班造就後清楚重生,在九月初接受洗禮。他們長久渴慕的心靈開始得滋潤而福杯滿溢。教會充滿熱誠和溫暖,信徒生命正奇妙地經歷對付和改變。神的靈運行在每個人的身上,是那麼清楚、鮮明,以致由個人蒙恩歸主影響到一家

一家全家得救。馬德里的復興運動繼而 擴展,遍及全西班牙各地的華人教會。 求神使西班牙的眾教會都被建立得穩固 ,並且傾全力在福音未到之地開荒植堂 ,使福音遍傳這個國家。

西班牙的生活相當自由富裕。但在 物慾得滿足後的人心卻空虛迷茫,漸漸 失去願爲福音付代價,肯爲主背十字架 的精神。求主使這活在恩典中的人們仍 能愛主勝過一切,配稱作主的門徒。

整個歐洲大約有一百萬華人,但華人牧者卻多事可數。平均來說,兩萬華人還分不到一位全時間的牧者。這是全世界華人牧者和宣教士要重新對焦的重點。百萬華人因對福音的渴求而吶喊:「誰來傳福音給我們?誰肯奉差遣來牧養我們?」當年的哥尼流,有彼得去傳;馬其頓的呼聲,喚起了保羅的回應。今日在歐洲大陸流浪的炎黃子孫正發出呼聲,誰來回應呢?今日的彼得何在呢?今日的保羅何往呢?

歐洲有數十間華人教會,許多有爲的青年熱心獻身,但仍無一所較正規的華人神學院或培訓中心來栽培他們。許多願意獻身的人,苦無門路尋求造就,只能閉門自修,獨自摸索,以應付沉重的壓力與許多難解的課題。當中甚至有些人半途而廢,不了了之或回頭重操故業。今日的華夏子弟正需要像亞波羅的同工來教導啊!華人教會中有許多人強調教會效法使徒時代的教會模式,何不起來實踐今日的使徒行傳,成爲今日的使徒呢?

整個歐洲大陸異端橫行,勢力龐大。基督的精兵們啊!應當快快奮起,勇向黑暗權勢進軍,讓主的大使命在這片土地上實現。

□作者爲大使命中心宣教士,專責西班牙和 葡萄牙的工場。

大使命中心事工

董事會九六年度會議

大使命中心九六年度董事會會議已 於九月五日在大使命中心德州總部舉行 。大使命中心董事會成員分別來自美加 各地,計爲:主席滕近輝牧師、書記高 雲漢牧師、司庫葉陳淑淑醫生,及委員 :孫約翰牧師、宋仲虎執事、楊嘉善長 老和王永信牧師。

會議從上午八時卅分開始,直至下午四時結束。首先由主席帶領董事會和辦公室同工的聯合靈修及禱告時間。滕牧師勉勵同工們注意四方面的結合:結合團隊工作和個人工作(Combination of Team Work and Individual Work);兼有馬利亞的心和馬大的手(Combination of Mary's Heart and Martha's Hand);結合神的工作和人的工作(Combination of God's Work and Man's Work);結合神的愛和我們為神的工作(Combination of the Love of God and Our Work for God)。

會議由董事會主席主持,會長王永 信牧師及幾位資深同工報告過去一年大 使命中心各項事工,包括各地董事會的 發展、開荒宜教工場的開拓(俄國、匈牙利、西班牙及東干等)、普世及本地宣教動員會議、文字出版、靈命深化操練、高峰禱告會、平信徒事工訓練等。大使命中心自南加州遷至德州才短短的十五個月,已有超過十位願意爲神擺上的新同工,加入事奉的行列,努力不懈地在辦公室、在宣教工場爲福音的緣故,奉獻一己所長。

大家更爲神在經濟上的供給而感謝 。祂不僅供應各項事工的需要,連購置 總部的借款,亦收到足夠認獻,並將於 本年底前全部清還。

會長王永信牧師向董事會報告九七 年事工計劃,並提出九七年財政預算和 營地擴建計劃。董事們一致通過明年一 百二十萬美元的事工及行政預算,及漸 進式的營地擴建計劃二百萬美元的預算 ,並授權擴建委員會以最經濟、實用的 方式進行。盼望在兩、三年後,大使命 中心銅谷退修營能發展爲可容納三百人 的會議、訓練及禱告場所。



善事會議在進行中。

不一樣的聚會

- 葉陳淑淑醫生香港領會報導

大使命中心董事葉陳淑淑醫生於本 年八月再次應香港教會及福音機構之邀 ,赴香港兩週,主領一連串聚會。

葉醫生此次主要是應九龍城浸信會之邀,主領八月十六至十八日的佈道會。主題是:不一樣的愛。三晚分題分別爲:平安何處覓、福音與豐盛的人生及不一樣的愛。每晚聚會均座無虛席,不僅大堂滿座,樓下的小禮堂也擠得水洩不通。最後一晚,參加人數超過三千人,打破九龍城浸信會歷來聚會的紀錄。葉醫生信息扣人心弦,聞者無不感動,決志信主者超過二百人。

香港基督徒音樂協會亦乘葉醫生來 港之便,在八月九日至十一日舉行三天 專題講座,題目分別爲:絕處逢生、生 命更新,及福音震撼。三天聚會人數高 達二千多人。葉醫生與會眾分享重建信 心、突破人際關係和創新個人佈道法的 信息,大家深受她的生命經歷所感動, 爭相購買葉醫生信息的錄音帶。

此外,葉醫生又分別在宜道會北角 堂、循道衛理聯合教會香港堂及鰂魚涌 浸信會等主領主日崇拜及培靈會,並充 份利用時間作個人輔導和電話輔導,忠 心爲主。

葉醫生個子細小,食量輕微;但魄力驚人,事奉心志熱烈。「但那等候耶和華的必從新得力,他們必如鷹展翅上騰;奔跑卻不困倦,行走卻不疲乏」(賽四十31)。

大使命中心計劃明年三月十四至十 六日,再爲葉醫生在香港安排一次培靈 會,地點仍爲九龍城浸信會,詳情將另 行通告。

(雷瑞英姊妹提供)



志年書的精兵



謝謝美東南夏令會的愛心,將他們今年夏令會之主題字飾送給大使命中 心,作爲禮堂裝飾之用。此字飾於九月四日由數位較年長中心同工,花 了半天時間懸掛在二十幾英尺之高牆上。圖爲裝掛情況。這批老將精兵 包括師悌德牧師(84歲,義工),王永信牧師(71歲,會長),楊嘉善長 老(67歳,東干事工主任),陳偉文弟兄(49歳,行政主任)。



We thank the brothers and sisters of the US Southeast Summer Conference who donated the lettering of their conference theme this year to the Great Commission Center. The beautiful letter-set of eight Chinese words meaning DISCIPLES OF PIETY - SOLDIERS OF THE LORD is now hanging high on the walls of our auditorium/gym as a result of half day's work on September 4 of some brave and young-at-heart GCC coworkers. These pictures show the efforts of the work crew including Rev George Steed (84 years old, veteran missionary and long-term volunteer). Rev Thomas Wang (71. president). Elder Chia Shan Yang (67. volunteer Director of Dungan Mission Project), and Mr Wayne Chan (49, Director of Administration).











