



# Great Commission News

大使命家訊

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## America! Return to God!

- some reflections on the second Pearl Harbor

"It is another Pearl Harbor!" said a ranking congressman a few hours after the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York collapsed under the attack by terrorist planes on September 11, 2001.

60 years ago, the first Pearl Harbor of December 7, 1941 has helped to shake America out of her self imposed isolationism. The second Pearl Harbor, with the heavy losses of lives and materials, may prove to be instrumental for the waking up of America from her spiritual and moral slumber.

Never since the height of WW II have I heard media personnel calling people for prayer. But that happened in that morning when the television newsmen, silhouetted by the billowing smoke of the burning towers, calling repeatedly to his audience, "Say a prayer, say a prayer!"

Amid the pandemonium of the devastation, people in the street began to ask "Why? Why has this happened to America?" Indeed, America has never experienced a holocaust of this magnitude on her own soil. Most of the international conflicts were fought in far away countries. But this unparalleled disaster was planned and executed with great precision by foreign agents on American soil and directed at her greatest metropolis. Suddenly the only super-power in the world appears naked and vulnerable.

What went wrong? A great deal!

In recent years, a gigantic force has been advancing swiftly and subtly in almost every walk of life in this nation. We are wit-

nessing a fateful transit—the progressive secularization of America! We could call this devastating momentum the Secular Drift!

Should there be a day that America will crumble and fall, much like the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, it will not be done by enemy attacks from without, but by secularization and corruption from within.

### America! Remember your Founder

It is now a most critical time that America should undertake a national self-examination, under the search light of the Spirit of God!

"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living water, and they have hewn for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, which cannot hold water." (Jeremiah 2:13)

What a striking similarity! Like Jeremiah's time, America today is also forsaking God, forgetting her Founder, and building her own cisterns! The whole nation is overwhelmed and overshadowed by the weight of this Secular Drift!

### Leaders of America are forsaking God

There is a special place in God's heart for the rulers of a nation who would submit themselves and walk humbly with Him. God will bless a whole nation on account of her rulers' God-fearing attitude.

We, thus, suggest that the President, Vice-President, members of the Congress,

and all other high government officials, set aside 15 minutes each day to come humbly before the Almighty God, to ask for forgiveness of their sins, to pray for Divine Guidance and wisdom to discharge the tremendous responsibilities entrusted them, and to make intercession for the nation and for the world.

Leaders of the United States must come back to God! That old-time religion has to be once again accepted, honored, and practiced in the United States Capital!

This is what will surely save America!

### Our highest law office is forsaking God

The fact that the Supreme Court of the United States has in 1965 out-lawed prayer at public schools has been a most devastating one! A decision such as this, made by the highest court of the country, has far-reaching consequences.

Look at the schools today; young minds are being fed by agnostic and atheistic teachings; religious faith is being laughed at; immorality has become a common practice! And yet, this very least expression of reverence of God has been banned—not by an atheistic or totalitarian power, but by the Supreme Court of a Christian nation whose very foundation was based on faith of our Puritan fathers!

Let us not forget how America was found! Let us provoke no further the wrath of the Almighty! Let us revere Him and repent! Let the American people have the courage to declare as the Apostles did: "We ought to obey God rather than man!"



## Our educational system is forsaking God

Higher education today seems only to build up an apology for atheism.

Christian young people today continually face the confrontation of human theories against the Bible, Darwin's Evolution vs God's Creation. We are not making an effort to lead young people to God through the educational system. We naively say, "Let them choose for themselves." You don't let your young children choose between a bottle of milk and a bottle of poison and do nothing about it, do you?

Our educational system should be operated on a God-revering basis. Starting from grade school, the knowledge and faith in God should be taught to the students.

## Pastors being replaced by psychiatrists

More and more Christians today consult a psychiatrist rather than go to their pastor for prayer and help. (It is true also that some ministers themselves no longer believe in prayer.)

Churches today are fading out from the picture of people's everyday lives. With churches' conforming to this world, people no longer consider them relevant much less willing to go to them for help in time of spiritual crisis.

If America forsakes God, she will suffer a more severe judgment from Him, because she has been born, raised, and brought up by God. It is unnatural for her to say there is no God!

But the cruel fact is: America today IS

forsaking God! The older generation is gone—and with them, the old-time religion, the faith of our fathers! The new crop of men and women today, while enjoying the fruit of their God-fearing forefathers, do not know or stop to think how prosperity came about. They do not see the grounds and the need to have God. Why bother about God at all when they can enjoy good food, new cars, TV, and baseball!

This generation has to be told!

The great works of God have to be re-proclaimed among the current generation of American people today.

**"BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD" (Ps 33:12).**

America, return to God!

# Thrice Moving to the Golden State

Thomas Wang

Due to ever-increasing focus on our China ministry, Great Commission Center International has moved from Texas to Mountain View of the San Francisco Bay area in June. Looking back, this is the third time for me to move to California.

The first time was in 1972 when I was working with Chinese Christian Mission (CCM). For ministry reasons, CCM decided to relocate from Detroit, Michigan to Petaluma, California, a small city about thirty miles north of San Francisco. Driving a large moving van and two other passenger cars, my coworkers and I



spent a whole week on the road before reaching our destination.

My family and I came back to California in 1989 from Singapore to set up the West Coast office of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization in Pasadena, California. From there we organized the Second Lausanne Congress held in Manila, The Philippines.

For our move this last time from Dallas to Mountain View



last June, we had to use four large moving vans (each twenty-six feet long) and two passenger cars. In addition, two of the vans were towing automobiles. It was quite a sight to see this caravan lumbering along the highway. During the four traveling days, we ran out of gas a couple of times (due to inaccurate fuel meter). And the air conditioning system failed in one van contributing to the cause of the driver falling asleep at the wheel. The van veered off the road jolting the driver awake. He then managed to stop the van in a slight ditch. God was with us! Praise the Lord!

Moving is a tremendous chore. It is expensive and tiresome. Abraham seemed to be moving throughout his life, and had it one hundred times harder than us. He had no automobiles and there were no super highways. Like Abraham we are but pilgrims passing through this world towards our heavenly home. So we should not complain. I do hope, though, this is the last time we move on such a grand scale. But come to think of it, I have said this a few times in the past.



# Our Ministry Moves Forward

We thank God for guiding us to move from Dallas, Texas to Mountain View, California this past June. In recent years, Chinese population has increased significantly in California, especially in the South Bay area, the so-called Silicon Valley. According to the United States year 2000 census, Chinese population in California has reached 980,000, about 40% of total Chinese population in the country. There is great need for the gospel message among them.

The past year is a year full of challenge for Great Commission Center International. The following are some of the work God has accomplished through us:

## **Pioneer Missions**

As a pioneer mission, we have continued to target neglected areas, looking for unreached peoples, commencing evangelistic and church planting ministry. This is followed by calling churches and mission agencies to the needs of these areas, so that they may be involved and eventually take over the ministry in these new mission fields.

### *1. Islands in South Pacific*

GCCI has been sharing the gospel needs of Guan, Saipan, Tenien, and Palau since 1999. Many churches have sent short- and intermediate-term missionaries to these islands.

In cooperation with churches in New Zealand, GCCI, along with several other mission agencies, will organize the Third Pacific Islands Mission Conference to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, November 5-8, 2002.

### *2. Persian Gulf*

Rev Thomas Wang, GCCI President, visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in April 2001. He learnt that there are a considerable number of Chinese working in various professions in the Muslim countries of the Gulf. Missionaries in UAE appealed for Chinese missionaries and promised to assist them.

GCCI has decided to organize the First Persian Gulf Chinese Mission Conference in Dubai, UAE, February 5-11, 2002. The actual conference is from 5th through 7th. On the 8th, participants will attend local church services. They will visit a neighboring state 9th - 11th.

## **Ministry to China & Overseas Chinese Scholars**

China is the world's largest mission field. GCCI is working to provide data, resources and consultation to the vast number of Chinese churches, and continue the book project started last year. We are now printing and distributing discipleship training type of books in China through various channels.

Since 1996, we have jointly with three other parachurch organizations organized a training seminar for overseas Chinese scholars during the Christmas holidays.

## **Mission Publication**

Besides our periodical, we edit, write and translate mission related books helpful to the Chinese churches.

### *1. <Great Commission Bi-monthly>*

The <Great Commission Quarterly> was reformatted to a bi-monthly this year published on even number months. Its

content include call for mission involvement, newest mission strategy and needs on the field. 16,000 free copies are sent worldwide to churches, agencies and mission-minded Christians.

### *2. Other Publications*

All our books are sent upon request on free-will offering basis. Books/pamphlets published during the last two years are:

- a. <Handbook on Cults & Heresies>  
(regular & simplified Chinese)
- b. <From Eternity to Eternity>  
(regular & simplified Chinese)
- c. <Coming Events>  
(regular & simplified Chinese)
- d. <Kings & Priest>  
(translated into regular Chinese)

3. *For those not able to read Chinese, we are publishing <Great Commission News> in English starting this September, 4 issues per year.*

## **Training Ministry**

In response to request for training in basic theology and practical ministry, the following programs has been developed in the last two years:

### *1. Renewal Institute (RI)*

Established in cooperation with Christian Renewal Ministry, RI offers theology courses several times a year. These courses have been recognized by Columbia Bible Theological Seminary. We hope to offer similar courses in other regions of North America.

### *2. Courses in Practical Ministry*

In Dallas and Houston, we have offered "Cults & Apologetics" and "Global Missions", ten-hour non-credit courses. These were well accepted by the churches.

### *3. Internet Courses*

We have started to put all GCCI publication and training courses on our internet web site to make them available to a much wider audience.

Great Commission Center international has just moved to northern California. We urgently need prayer and support from our friends and churches.

## GCCI Board Members Elected

Recently the GCCI, Hong Kong and Canadian Boards of Directors met and elected new members.

The International Board met in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on July 13 during the Sixth Chinese Congress on World Evangelization (CCOWE). Besides hearing the ministry report from the President and the Treasurer's report, the Board, once again, affirmed GCCI's current ministry thrust. During a subsequent telephone conference call at the end of August, the board elected the following members:

Rev Philip Teng, Chairman; Rev John Kao, Vice Chairman; Dr Enoch Wan, Secretary; Rev John Sun, Treasurer; Elder Chia Shan Yang; Rev Edwin Su; Rev Samuel Chan; and Rev Thomas Wang, Ex-officio member.

Hong Kong Board decided to sponsor a seminar to share the vision of mission to the Persian Gulf. Rev Wang was invited to be the main speaker. In other Board actions, Ms Aggie Li was appointed Hong Kong Office Manager, and the following board members were elected:

Rev Sek-Wai Lo, Chairman; Rev Samuel Cheng, Secretary; Rev Peter Ho, Treasurer; Dr Titus Loong; and Rev Thomas Wang.

The Canadian Board met on August 4 in Toronto. The following members were elected:

Rev Samuel Chan, Chairman; Elder Ramsay Chan, Vice Chairman; Elder Kok-Swang Tan, Secretary; Rev John Kao, Treasurer; and Rev Peter Mah, Director of Ministry.

The Board invited Sister Diana Chan to be Director of Promotion to promote the GCCI vision and ministry in churches in Canada. The Board also will send to the First Persian Gulf Chinese Mission Conference three Canadian delegates: Rev Samuel Chan, Elder Kok-Swang Tan and Ms Diana Chan.

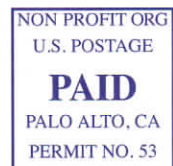
## GCCI 2002 Budget

<b>Missions</b>	<b>\$574,000</b>
Global Mission	
China Ministry	\$100,000
South Pacific Mission	\$5,000
Persian Gulf Mission	\$15,000
Himalayan Mission	\$5,000
Mexico Mission	\$3,000
Travel/Administrative Support	\$137,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,000
	<b>\$270,000</b>
<b>Mission Publication</b>	
<Great Commission Bi-monthly>	\$75,000
<Great Commission News>	\$12,000
Mission Books	\$80,000
Stationary/Art Supplies/Postage	\$12,000
Travel/Administrative Support	\$120,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,000
	<b>\$304,000</b>
<b>Training Seminars and Internet School</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Public Relations/Donor Relations/Fund Raising</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>
<b>Office Administration</b>	<b>\$336,000</b>
Office Rent	\$84,000
Stationary/Postage	\$5,000
Equipment/Maintenance	\$20,000
Professional Services	\$10,000
Travel	\$5,000
Salary/Benefit	\$200,000
Phone/Fax	\$5,000
Hospitality	\$2,000
Miscellaneous	\$5,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>US\$1,000,000</b>



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