

Great Commission News

大使家訊

Summer 2002

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PERSIAN GULF MISSION AWARENESS MEETING HELD IN HONG KONG, USA AND CANADA

Chinese churches are catching up with the vision of the Macedonian Call from the Persian Gulf. Churches in Canada, USA and Hong Kong are holding Persian Gulf mission awareness meetings in the last few months. The 20 plus participants of the First Persian Gulf Chinese Mission Conference, which was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in February of this year, have been instrumental to these mission awareness meetings. For details of the Conference and the following mission trips to the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Kuwait please see the Spring 2002 issue of the *Great Commission News*.

Hong Kong

The eight pastors and laymen from Hong Kong were impressed by the need of the 20,000 plus mainland Chinese scattered in the Persian Gulf countries when they participated the Persian Gulf Chinese Mission Conference and the following mission trips in February. During their debriefing meeting after they returned to Hong Kong they felt the urge of sharing the need of the Chinese in the Persian Gulf with mission and church leaders in Hong Kong.

The meeting at the Tsim Sha Tsui Swatow Christian Church was co-sponsored by GCCI (HK) and the Swatow Christian Mission on March 4. Dr. Sharon Chan, vice-president of GCCI highlighted the outcomes of the conference and gave an overview of the mission trips to the three countries. Seven of the eight participants shared their reflections on the trips with power-point presentation by Miss Aggie Li, office manager of GCCI (HK).



尖沙咀潮人生命堂/生命堂差會協辦
波斯灣異象分享會

In the following months, different churches and one seminary have invited GCCI (HK) staff to share with them Chinese ministries in the Persian Gulf. Some churches have expressed their interest in supporting the Chinese ministries in the Persian Gulf and sending short-term mission teams there next year.

We are thankful to the organizer of the 15th Grace to All Nations Mission Conference for providing us opportunity to share Persian Gulf experience at the Conference on June 1. This is an annual event initiated by the Hong Kong Association of Christian Missions (HKACM) fifteen years ago and co-sponsored by the entire HKACM family, of which GCCI (HK) is a member.

USA

When G.C. C.I. home office learned about the possible visit of pastor Daniel Splett, the senior pastor of the United Christian Church of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to the San Francisco Bay Area in mid-June, we began making arrangements for Persian Gulf Mission Awareness meetings.



The two mission awareness meetings were held in the evenings of June 20 (at the Lord's Grace Church in Mountain View) and June 21(The First United Presbyterian Church in San Francisco). A video on the need of the Persian Gulf, *the Macedonian Calls from the Persian Gulf*, was shown before Pastor Daniel's message. Another video showing the need of the building project of UCCD was shown after his message. In addition, Pastor Paul Chi, a veteran missionary to Thailand gave his testimonies of

pastoring the new Chinese congregations in UAE and Oman from April 15 to May 15. As a result, several responded to the calling for short-term mission personnel to the Persian Gulf before a full-time and long-term missionary could be there.

Canada

There were three participants from Canada in the Persian Gulf conference. But they are the most responsive to the need of the Persian Gulf. They have held several Persian Gulf Mission Awareness Meetings in March and April, both in Toronto and in Ottawa. They have also invited Pastor Daniel to visit Toronto and Ottawa in June and July to meet with the church and mission leaders.

Please pray for the churches in Toronto as they are planning to send mid-term (2 years) and short-term missionaries to pastor the Chinese congregations in the Persian Gulf.

The Need in the Persian Gulf

The Persian Gulf was one of the most neglected areas in the world. In fact, it is the heart of the 10/40 window and one of the least evangelized regions. About 99% of the local population in each of these countries are Muslims. Conversion to Christianity is illegal and will face severe penalty.

However, God used the devastating Gulf war to stir up worldwide concerns for these countries. A large number of expatriates, from high-tech professionals to manual laborers, are recruited from all over the world to come to help the development of these Muslim states. Today, most of the large cities have significant number of expatriates. It is estimated that about 80% of the population in Dubai of United Arab Emirates are expatriates. It is no doubt that these expatriates will bring with them various cultures, custom and life-style. Most importantly, they also bring

along their beliefs. In view of the spiritual need, local governments allow the expatriates to have their own churches or temples. Therefore, in most of the large cities there are church sites assigned by the government to different religions to erect their church buildings and hold their services.

Protestants and Catholics have had their presence in the Persian Gulf for hundreds of years through medical missions. But, as Christians were and still are restricted on their outreach activities they do not have much influence on the local people. However, they have the opportunities to reach the non-Christian expatriates. As a result, many expatriates of different religions, even Muslims are coming to Christ. And there are Arabic congregations in some of the churches.



Rev. Paul Chi leading Bible study in Dubai, UAE

Tentative Date for next Persian Gulf Chinese Mission Conference

The date of next Persian Gulf Chinese Mission Conference and following mission trips have been set tentatively on February 19 to March 5, 2003. If the participants can stay a few more days, they are welcome to stay through March 9 in order to help the special meetings at the weekend. More details will be ready later this year.

Conference venue will be the same as this year, Beach Hotel of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. We are planning to revisit the cities that we have ministered this year; namely, Dubai and Abu Dhabi of UAE, Sohar and Muscat of Oman, and Kuwait City of Kuwait. And we will explore, if possible, the ministry opportunities in Jordan, Bahrain and Qatar. If you are interested in joining us in this trip, please mark your calendar and let us know.



Reunion Meetings of the 5th OCSS Held in Los Angeles and San Jose

By the request of the students of the 5th Overseas Chinese School of Servanthood (OCSS) last December, we have organized two reunion meetings for the students and counselors this year on June 8 and June 29 as a mid-term huddle and evaluation.

The **Southern California** reunion was held at the Karios Communication Inc., Alhambra and chaired by Mr. Paul Lu of the Overseas Campus Magazine. Following a power-point presentation to recapture the spirit of last year's training camp, Rev Luke Zhang shared message with the participants. Then, each student shared their testimonies and prayed for each other.

The reunion meeting in **Northern California** was held on June 29 at the Home Of Christ in Cupertino from 9am to 1:30pm. 25 students and counselors attended.

Elder Danny Ku of the Chinese Church in Christ, San Jose, chaired the meeting. Rev Luke Lu of the Home of Christ

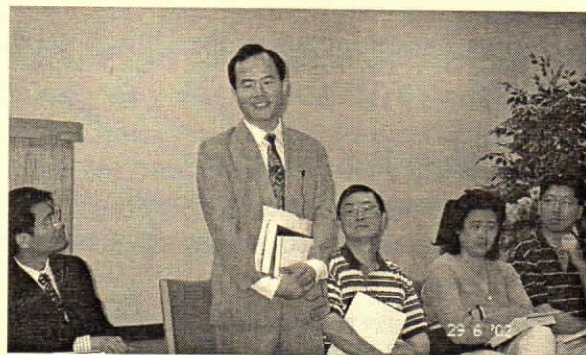


Elder Danny Ku chaired the N. California reunion

Church in Cupertino shared his spiritual pilgrimage "From a Dentist to a Pastor" and encouraged

the students to respond to full-time ministry calling. "It is the highest honor to be called by our Lord to serve Him," He said. Rev Lawrence Chan of the Christian Witness Theological Seminary, on behalf the Program Committee of the 6th OCSS, shared with the group key components and schedule of this year's training session. Students and counselors gave several constructive suggestions for improvement.

The meeting ended with group sharing and prayer after a simple lunch.



Rev. Luke Lu shared his spiritual pilgrimage



The 3rd Pacific Islands Chinese Mission Conference

Date: November 5-8, 2002

Venue: Willow Park (1 Hostel Access Road,
Eastern Beach, Auckland, New Zealand)

Official Language: Mandarin

Registration Fee: US\$40

Room and Board (for Nov 5-8): US\$100

Local Transportation: US\$25

Post-Conference Mission Trips:

Nov 9-16 (optional):

1. New Zealand
2. Vanuatu
3. New Caledonia

Church pastors, missionaries and members of mission committees are welcome to attend this conference.

Please contact GCCI for details.

UP-COMING 6TH OCSS

The 6th OCSS will be held on December 25-31, 2002 again at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Burlingame, California. It is only 5 minutes drive from the San Francisco International Airport. The hotel provides 24 hours shuttle to the airport.

Program

This training camp is catered to the Chinese Scholars who are willing to serve the Lord either full-time or as lay leader in the church. Contents will include:

Morning Programs

1st session: Morning devotion and prayer

2nd session: 6 topical studies on Bible and Theology.

3rd session: Special lectures on Basic Doctrine, Basic Apologetics, American and Popular Culture and Christianity, Chinese Culture vs Christianity, Bible Inerrancy, etc.

Afternoon Programs

Personal Counseling

Workshops on practical ministries, such as the balance of

family life, work and ministry, personal evangelism, serving as elders and deacons, global missions, full-time ministry calling and equipping, bi-vocational ministry and equipping, preparation for returning to China, spiritual warfare etc.

Evening Programs

6 revival meetings under the topic of: "Life, Ministry and Mission".

Official Language

The entire training will be conducted in Mandarin. Please encourage your Mandarin speaking Christian friends to attend.

Fees

Registration fee: US\$25

Camp fee: US\$250 (including room and board for six days)

US\$100 for 9am to 9pm commuters

Please contact GCCI for more details.



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