

Great Commission News

大使命家訊

SPRING 2003

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The 2nd Persian Gulf Chinese Mission Conference Held in United Arab Emirates in February, 2003

"The war will start any time. Should I book the air ticket?" "Does GCCI consider to postpone the conference?" "What is GCCI's emergency plan if the war breaks out while we are there?" Those were the questions we received in January and February from churches and participants.

In early February it was clear that the war would be inevitable. Some participants withdrew their registrations two weeks before the Conference.

GCCI staff prayed earnestly to God for His guidance. We understood our decision would make long-lasting effects. God gave us inner peace to announce the Conference and the following mission trips would be held as original planned. This proved to be a powerful witness to the non-believers and great encouragement to the Christians there.

By God's grace the Conference was held on February 18 to 20 in Sharjah. United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sharjah is the third largest emirates, after Abu Dhabi and Dubai, situated about 30-minute drive north of Dubai. (The nickname of Dubai is the Middle East Hong Kong.) About 20 participants from Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, USA and local countries attended the Conference. Most of them were church pastors and elders, mission committee leaders, and seminary president and professor.



Participants prayed for the Chinese in Persian Gulf.



Evangelistic meeting in Sharjah.



During the three-day Conference, participants learned about the political, social, and religious development of this region, as well as dos and don'ts in the Gulf countries. They appreciated the most were the sharing of western workers and Chinese Christians on the distribution of Chinese in various countries and how they started and developed Chinese ministries in this part of the world. All were amazed of God's wonderful work in these lands. Less than three years ago, there were only a handful Chinese Christians in this part of the world. But, after one and a half years' conjoint efforts of various churches and individuals under the leadership and encouragement of GCCI, there are now over 200 new Christians in that region, 100 in UAE, 100 in Kuwait, 15 in Oman. Regular worship services are being held in Dubai and Kuwait, and fellowship meetings in Abu Dhabi and Muscat.

In addition, participants had the opportunity to engage in personal evangelism, Bible studies, discipleship training and special lectures in churches, homes, Chinese market places, and dormitories. They were encouraged by the enthusiasm of the Chinese to hear the gospel. Special evangelistic meetings were held in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Muscat in churches, homes and even workers' camps. It was exciting to see dozens of the non-believers expressed their desire to accept Christ when altar calls were given.

Short-term Mission Trip

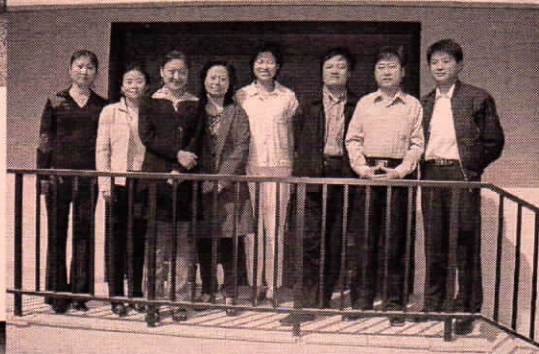


Evangelistic meeting in United Christian Church of Dubai.

Dubai
U.A.E.



Rev. Jacky and Anne Lau led sing-spiration.



8 brothers and sisters baptized on Feb 18 in Dubai.



Friday worship service held at a Chinese restaurant.



Outdoor evangelistic meeting at sister Jane's home in Dubai.

Abu Dhabi U.A.E



Short-term mission trip members with several brothers and sisters in Abu Dhabi.



Rev. Peter Hsieh and Rev. Eddie Lo shared God's Word with a group of Chinese.

Muscat, Oman



Rev. Dutt of Protestant Church of Oman officiated baptism for Chinese in Muscat.



Chinese gathered for fellowship at a believer's home.

During their two-week mission trip in the Persian Gulf participants led over 100 Chinese to Christ. They also conducted three baptismal services in Dubai and Muscat with 18 brothers and sisters made public witness for Jesus among their fellow kinsmen.

It is encouraging that a Chinese denomination in Canada has adopted Dubai and Sharjah, and they are planning to send a couple to UAE by August of this year. The couple will be stationed in Dubai. A church in Hong Kong and a small denomination in Toronto will help the development of the congregation in Kuwait. A seminary in Southeast Asia will send faculties to conduct training programs for these new Christians.

We praise God for His protection and guidance of the Conference and the following mission trips to UAE, Oman and Kuwait. All participants went home safely before the war actually started. On the last day of the Conference, participants voted to have the third Persian Gulf Chinese Mission Conference in February 2004. GCCI will be responsible for the preparation. Exact dates and venue will be announced later this year.

GCCI has learned that there are about 50,000 - 80,000 Chinese in United Arab Emirates. We are sure that more and more Chinese from China will be coming to these countries. One source said there will be 200,000 Chinese in UAE alone by the end of 2005. The trend may slow down a bit because of the present war. However, Persian Gulf is a vast field for Chinese ministries.

Please pray for the Dubai Chinese Church (regular attendance: 80-90), Stream of Life Chinese Church in Kuwait (attendance: 80-100), and the Chinese fellowship groups in Abu Dhabi (attendance: 20-30) and Muscat (attendance: 10-20). Pray also for the missionary couple and the churches and seminary that will be involved in Persian Gulf Chinese ministries.

Kuwait



Brothers and sisters came to visit short-term mission team members.



Rev. Sek-Wai Lo preached at NEC, Kuwait.



Congregation is eager to hear the gospel.



Rev. Paul Cheng shared the gospel with Chinese workers in a construction camp.



The National Evangelical Church of Kuwait, where our meetings held.



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GCCI News in Brief

China University Book Project

In view of the fact that most universities in China have special collection on Buddhism and Islam, we have the burden to help the universities to have a collection of Christian books. Through different channels, we have made contacts with several universities and the first several shipments have been delivered to those responded. We are hoping to contact more universities through different channels to send more books to their libraries in the near future. Please pray for this vital project.

Meetings with House Church Leaders in China

In the last 10 years, house churches are growing rapidly among the educated people and they have the burden to spread the gospel through better use of media and genuine cooperation. GCCI staff had the opportunities to meet two different groups of house church leaders in February and March in China to discuss the possibility of further cooperation in various ministries. Praise God for these outcomes.

GCCI President's Itinerary & Speaking Engagements in April & May, 2003

April	18 - 20	Peninsula Chinese Alliance Church, Burlingame, California
	21 - 26	Pan America Chinese Congress on World Evangelism, Panama City, Panama
	27	Evangelical Free Church in Panama
May	2 - 4	Boon Church of Overseas Chinese Mission, Flushing, New York
	5	San Francisco Bay Area Ministerial Association Monthly Prayer Meeting
	16 - 18	Chinese Christian Church of Thousand Oaks, Thousand Oaks, California
	24 - 26	Intensive Mission Training, Institute of Theological Seminars, New Jersey

Please pray for Dr. Wang's trip and all meetings. Thank you.