



# Great Commission News

大使命家訊

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## Chinese Mission Mobilization '05

The Chinese Mission Mobilization '05 (CMM '05) and the Revival Meetings with Rev. Thomas Wang as speaker were held on December 26-31, 2005 at the First Baptist Church of Menlo Park in northern California. It was the first time that we rented an American church to hold our event. CMM'05 was organized by the Great Commission Center International and co-sponsored by several Chinese mission organizations in California.

During the last few days of 2005 the weather was very unstable in California. Strong storms pounded the San Francisco Bay Area one after another, heavy rain flooded many cities and knocked out the electricity. The motel that most of the participants stayed in was also affected on the last day of our conference. But praise the Lord, our meetings proceeded smoothly.

The theme of the conference was "Today's Challenge". Rev. Cyrus Lam of Chinese Gospel Operation International spoke on "The Challenges of the Post-Modern World" at the Opening session. He set the tune for the five-day conference by reminding the participants that we need to recognize and be well prepared for the special needs of today's "Mission Fields", "Mission Works" and "Mission Workers".

Rev. Jack Cheng of Christ Leadership Institute led a 45-minute prayer meeting every morning. The prayer meetings were very enjoyable, including singing, Scriptures reading, group sharing, meditation, out-loud prayer and silent prayer. Afterwards, Rev. Johann Lai of the SAGOS delivered a series of Bible Expositions on the Book of Acts. He shared with the participants how God led the apostles to breakthrough racial, linguistic, cultural and geographic barriers in order to bring the gospel to the gentiles and to the end of the world. Rev. Lai stressed the importance of the leading of the Holy Spirit, the spiritual maturity of the churches and the submission and action of the leaders in all our missionary endeavors.

In the last morning sessions, four speakers ad-



Rev. Luke Zhang, Director of China Ministries of Sower International spoke on "Pioneers For God".

ressed four different aspects of missionary works of today. Rev. Calvin Chu of China Evangelistic Mission pointed out that there are still hundreds of unreached people groups waiting for "Pioneering Church Planting". He emphasized that missionary works are long-term investments, from pioneering evangelism, to church nurturing, to leadership training, until the day of passing the baton to local people. He also shared his own experience in church planting ministries in Myanmar and Thailand.

Rev. Cyrus Lam encouraged the participants to "Help the Emerging Churches" in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and suggested that in such a process, missionaries should know how to shift their roles from begin a pioneer, to a parent, to a partner and then to a participant. He said we could help these emerging churches by prayers and financial supports, and by providing human resources and trainings. He also called the participants to pay attention to the newly established churches among the Mainland Chinese in overseas areas, including merchants in Turkey, students in Cyprus, and labors in Korea, etc.

Dr. Sharon Chan of the Great Commission Center International called the participants' attention to the gospel need of the Creative Access Nations (CAN), where about 80% of the world's non-Christians resided. She also cited statistics from world population, unreached people groups, human development index etc. to show that CANs are the areas most in need of gospel of today. These CANs are generally hostile to western countries, to Christianity and to missionaries, because of historical wounds and/or religious prejudice. However, they welcome economic, professional



Prayer Walk teams prayed at City Hall, Court Houses, universities and major malls in the cities of San Francisco, San Jose, Menlo Park, Mountain View and Foster City.





Rev. Susan Chou, Director of Global Life Enrichment Center speaks on "Training of Mission Workers".

and technical helps. Chinese Christian professionals are encouraged to take up this challenge to go into these countries by helping them in the development of business, education, medical and public health, agriculture and fishing industry, etc. in hope that they will see Jesus through the lives of the workers.

Rev. Susan Chou of Global Life Enrichment Center (GLEC) stressed the need of "Training New Workers", because Chinese Church is lack of workers of all kinds. She encouraged every pastor, elder, deacon and missionary to look around to discover potential workers, to be their mentors and to provide them with adequate training before sending them out to the appropriate fields. Because of the desperate need of workers in the mission fields, GLEC has opened several training centers in their midst during the past few years. Some of their graduates have already been serving in these emerging churches.

The conference also invited four missionaries from different mission fields to share their experiences of working in a strange land. Rick and Eunice Johnson of International Action Ministries have been working among the very poor Indians in Mexico and South America for twenty years. Through the demonstration of their love, many people quit drinking and came to God. Some of the churches they established have become missionary-sending churches.

Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Lai with their 15-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter came to the conference. They have been working with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Africa for over ten years, first in Kenya and then in Uganda. Rev. Lai shared his experience in working with African and other missionaries. The two teenagers also shared their joy being missionary kids. They appreciated the opportunities of traveling to different countries, making acquaintance with new friends of different ethnicities, and learning different cultures.

Having worked among Muslims in Niger over a decade, Rev. Kuong Sii Wong of SIM led the participants through a virtual short-term trip to Niger. He explained the geography, language, customs, weather and foods. He told the participants he missed the sand in the food. He also shared how he adjusted to the life of a small village, lacking water and electricity. When talking with the Muslims about Jesus, he said, the best way is to identify us as the followers of Jesus.

Rev. Stephen Ho of Chinese Gospel Operation International informed the participants that there are over 200,000 Chinese labors working in Korea. The number of Chinese churches in South Korea has been grown to over 100 during the last 10 years. In view of the spiritual need of these workers, one Presbyterian Seminary solicited the help of GO International to provide theological training for those who are willing to serve the Lord full-time. Some of the graduates are already serving in the fields.

The program in the afternoons is multi-faceted. Besides 6 workshops, and meeting with representatives of 18 seminaries and mission agencies, the conference arranged Prayer Walking and Urban Mission Teams for the participants. Experienced pastors in the San Francisco Bay Area served as team leaders, leading the participants to neighboring cities to pray, on site for the government, legislation and judicial leaders, all levels of schools, media and industrial companies and different people groups. Co-workers of the Restaurant Gospel Ministry of the Chinese Christian Herald Crusades also helped to organize teams to visit some restaurants, sharing the gospel with restaurant workers. The most memorable trip was to the Headquarters of the Jews for Jesus. The participants were warmly received by their Associate Executive Director, Susan Perlman, who together with her staff conducted a custom-made two-hour seminar, informing the participants the customs and culture of Jews, the dos and don'ts while talking with them, and the Scriptures that we can cite when sharing the gospel. She also arranged a mixed-marriage couple (husband was a Jew from Israel, wife an American-born Chinese) to share their testimonies on bringing the traditional Jews to Christ.

The Revival Meetings on the evenings of December 27 through 29 conducted by Rev. Thomas Wang were spiritually up lifting. He used three couples to demonstrate the past, present and future of humankind: Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, and Christ and His Church. His topics for the three evenings were respectively, Lessons from the History, The Past, Present and Future of Israel, and The Signs of the Second Coming. Rev. Wang pointed out that God's perfect creation was ruined by the rebellion of humankind, whom the merciful God has not

abandoned. He chose Abraham and made covenant with him. Unfortunately, the sinful nature of humankind grew and over-turned God's world. Finally, God sent his only Son to the world and died on the cross for our sin. And the Church era began. We, the gentiles, are being accepted into God's family --- the Church. Although most of the Jews today do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah, God promised that



Veteran missionary Rev. Kuong Sii Wong shares vital experiences of many years of cross-cultural mission work with his whole family in Africa.





Cross-cultural Mission Workshop members visited Jews For Jesus Mission in San Francisco to learn about evangelizing the Jewish people

when the end time comes, the whole family of Israel will be saved. In fact, from the fact that the State of Israel was re-established in 1948 we know His Second Coming is near. The end-time prophecies in the Bible have come true one after another. When Rev Wang made the call for full-time service on December 29, 10 brothers and sisters responded.

One of the highlights in the three evening meetings was the expression of appreciation to the Jews for Jesus for their contribution to the Church (e.g., Jesus was born as a Jew, and died as a Jew). With all participants standing, a plaque of the Beatitudes in English and Chinese was presented to the representatives of Jews for Jesus by Rev. Thomas Wang, Rev. Luke Poon and Rev. Jenny Quey on behalf of the Chinese churches in the San Francisco bay area.

Rev. Luke Zhang delivered a powerful message in the evening of December 30. He used Elijah's experience in I King 19:1-18 to encourage the participants to fully understand the Devil's schemes and our shortcomings, God's reminders and commands, and His promises  
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A plaque of The Beatiudes in English and Chinese was presented by Chinese church leaders of San Francisco Bay Area to leaders of Jews For Jesus on December 28, 2005, as an expression of appreciation from Chinese Christians to the Jewish people.

(From left: Susan Perlman and David Lipkowitz of Jews For Jesus, and Chinese church leaders, Rev. Luke Poon, Rev. Jenny Quey and Rev. Thomas Wang.)

## "Brokeback Mountain" breaks the family backbone

--Bill Tam Ph.D

Disguised as a romantic movie, "Brokeback Mountain" attempts to break the backbone of the traditional family. It portrays as an entangled homosexual relationship between two cowboys and their rendezvous in the slopes of the beautiful Brokeback Mountain. The bonding was so strong that it spans two decades and brings adultery into their respective marriages. One of them ends in divorce with his wife and the other dies of an accident.



The movie attempts to break the back of several social and moral standards.

1. The heroic and chivalrous image of American cowboys, as traditionally symbolized by Gary Cooper, John Wayne, Clint Eastwood etc., was broken by the simplistic, selfish and animal-like behavior of the main characters.

2. The honorable and pure man-to-man friendship is broken by bringing sex into the relationship. The ugly effect is to introduce such deviant relationship into the minds of young audiences, who might work in environments that require close male contacts (e.g. the army, boy scouts, athletic teams, dormitories, etc.).

3. It breaks the heterosexual marriage by showing its troublesome daily routines. It portrays homosexual relationship as romantic and trouble-free that it deserves the painful sacrifice of the wife and children. Even when the wife does not understand, the children do -- implying the acceptance of homosexuality in the next generation.

4. It breaks the moral standard of the society. By showing the agony of this homosexual relationship in the sixties, the movie suggests the source of pain comes from the restrictive moral standard of the traditional society. It suggests that if the society accepted same-sex marriage, it would have been a beautiful and long-lasting relationship.

Although plagued with low box office figures, Hollywood hails Brokeback Mountain as a beautiful love story and awards it with trophies. Such commendation of deviant behavior and attack on traditional family illustrate the tragedy of the pop culture today. When an Asian director joins the destructive force in breaking the moral code of what most Asian parents believe in, it brings shame to us as a people.





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## Chinese Mission Mobilization '05

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and mandates. He also reminded the participants of the real situation of the churches in China beneath the apparent prosperity. By the grace of God and by the leading of the Holy Spirit, we need to be careful not to “marginlize” the gospel, but continue the good tradition of the house churches, and be willing to pay the price of taking up the cross.

In the Closing Session in the morning of December 31, Rev. Edwin Su shared a message on “Evangelism through Chinese Culture from A Historical Perspective”. He led the participants to walk through Chinese church history, beginning from the Nestorians in the Tang Dy-

nasty until the present time. He pointed out the wrong strategies and blind spots of the missionaries in the past, such as the from-top-and-down strategy of the Catholic missionaries in the Ming and Qing Dynasties that did not really get down to the ordinary people, and the Tai Ping Kingdom whose leaders wanted to put politic, military and religion into one basket, but ended up with syncretism. Rev. Su suggested three ways to evangelize the Chinese people: focusing on the transformation of worldview and values; befriending with the common people and doing direct evangelism (in accordance with Hudson Taylor’s strategy); and patterning after the relationship of the first generation Church Fathers and church members.

All the messages given in this five-day conference were biblical, and practical. Participants had plenty of time to interact with speakers and exhibitors, and were provided with first-hand experience in prayer walking and urban missions. May God continue to work in their hearts and lead them into global missions.



◀ CMM2005 Group Picture