

Great

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Commission News

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“Understanding the Jewish People Seminar” was held on March 28-30, 2008 at the Lord’s Grace Christian Church in Mountain View, California. It was the first of its kind among the Chinese churches in the San Francisco Bay area.

Jews are the chosen people of God. However, most of them today do not accept Jesus as the Messiah. There are only a small number of Messianic congregations around the world. Apparently, Jewish people are an unreached people, and a neglected one.

God has put the burden of sharing the gospel with the Jewish people in the hearts of GCCI leaders when they

sentations on topics, such as: Jews in the Diaspora, Why do Jews need the gospel, How to witness to Jews, and Israel is God’s time-clock in the end time.

The Seminar reached a climax when in a special ceremony participants showed their appreciation to the Jews for their contributions to Christianity on account of the fact that Jesus in the flesh was born as a Jew, all apostles were Jews; the early church was Jewish church and all Christian martyrs during the first few centuries were Jews. It was the Jews who brought the gospel to the gentiles in the first place. Dr. Thomas Wang, led the congregation to express their hearts of appreciation to the Jewish friends in

DO JEWS NEED THE GOSPEL?

— A Report on the Seminar of Understanding the Jewish People —

were promoting the Back to Jerusalem Movement (BJM). BJM was initiated by God in the 1940’s among Chinese churches in North China. Their vision was to take the gospel from north China, through the 7 provinces in the northwest China and the 7 countries in Central Asia, and then back to Jerusalem. Since the final destination is Jerusalem, it is inevitable that we need to reach out to the Jews,” said Dr. Thomas Wang, President Emeritus of GCCI.

The Seminar speakers were: Dr. Sandra Tep-linsky of Light of Zion, Dr. Amnon Shor of Burning Bush Ministries and Mr. Aaron Abramson of Jews for Jesus. They are all Messianic Jews and have the burden to evangelize their own people. Both Dr. Shor and Mr. Abramson had served in Israel’s armed forces. Dr. Shor was born and raised up in Israel in an orthodox Jewish family while Mr. Abramson was born in the USA.

During the 10-hour Seminar, the three speakers shared with the congregation on the inter-relationship between Israelites and Arabs from Biblical, historical, spiritual and political perspectives. They also gave pre-

an unanimous reading of the following Confession:
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A Californian Crisis ---- An American Crisis

Today is a day of spiritual warfare. We, who live in California especially, are at the forefront. The following brief sketch of the renewed battle introduced by the return of the same-sex-marriage forces.

Spiritual Warfare in 2004

We remember well on what happened in February 2004. Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco blatantly decided to issue same-sex marriage licenses. Within a brief span of two months, he issued more than three thousand same-sex marriage licenses, until he was ordered to stop by the California Supreme Court.

Chinese Christian churches in the San Francisco Bay Area, by God's guidance, initiated an open-air rally at the Larsen Park in San Francisco's Sunset District on April 25. More than seven thousand Chinese as well as some other ethnic Christians participated. Wearing Red T-shirts with big white Chinese and English characters "MARRIAGE: 1 MAN + 1 WOMAN" they boldly declared Christian principles on marriage.

Likewise, Chinese churches in southern California held an open-air rally on June 27 to support traditional marriage; more than four thousand

brothers and sisters participated. Then in September, Chinese churches in New York City held a street parade in Flushing, supporting marriage between one man and one woman. Thank God that He has used the Chinese churches in many places to be His voice and to testify for Biblical truth.

Return of the Homosexual Disaster

Today, Satanic forces have returned, mightier than before! This time, not through a mayor, but through the California Supreme Court!

May 15 of this year was indeed a day of shame for California. The California Supreme Court by a vote of 4 to 3 overturned Proposition 22, which was passed by a majority (61%) of citizens of California eight years ago (2000). That proposition defined marriage to be between one man and one woman.

Four arrogant and biased judges violated the will of the people of California. Using their judicial power, they pushed their radical liberal agenda and ruled: "Forbidding same-sex marriage is unconstitutional." This ruling undoubtedly will tend to cause moral decadence, family disintegration, and the corruption of the young people and families of the next generation as well as the future society. ►

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Our Confession

1. We do not accept nor believe in the Replacement Theology.
2. We affirm the statement of the Apostle Paul: "Did God reject his people? By no means!" (Rom. 11:1)
3. We are sorry for all the unfair, cruel and barbaric treatments to the Jewish people in history, sometimes done in the name of the Church.
4. We love the Jewish people, wish to be their friends and become partners of the Gospel with them.
5. May God bless the Jewish people and fulfill His purpose through them before Christ returns.

A set of six (6) DVDs for this Seminar is available for purchase from GCCI. The total cost is US\$35 plus US\$5 for shipping and handling. (International postage will be higher.)



Amnon Shor

Aaron Abramson



Sandra Teplinsky



Dictators of America

When the United States was founded, the founding fathers decided to establish a democratic country. In order to prevent a dictatorial government, they divided the power into three branches, namely, Executive, Legislative and Judicial, so that there is adequate check and balance.

Strangely, today most American people habitually criticize the Executive branch (the President), fewer people criticize the Legislative branch (the Congress), and seemingly no one dares to criticize the judicial branch (the Court). Nobody seems to speak against the Judges, no matter how ridiculous their rulings are. As if once they put on the black gowns, they become sacred and beyond reproach. Today the Court has become a de facto dictator. The four judges are but an example! Once they have made a decision, all the people in the state, or even the nation, are forced to obey. They actively and purposefully lead (or force) all the people of the state or nation into a road of self-destruction. This is a deviant phenomenon, and a dead end of democracy!

Last Chance for Maintaining Traditional Marriage

As resident Christians of California, we need to do our shares and to make our best efforts. We urge you to pray earnestly for the initiative of "Constitutional amendment for protecting marriage". Over one million petition signatures have been sent to the state legislature and have been examined and accepted. It will be put on the November ballot to let California's voters to decide on the definition of marriage. If favorably decided, it can overturn the ruling of the California Supreme Court made on May 15. This is the last chance for California's voters.

Mobilization of the Whole Church to Turn the Tide

For this Constitutional amendment to succeed it will demand the participation of every citizen for the voting. We urge our fellow pastors and church leaders, at this critical juncture, to do the following immediately:

1. Voter Registration. (You must register to vote!)

Please mobilize eligible voters to register, between now and September. Go to the any post office to obtain Voter-Registration forms and then urge all American citizens in your congregation to fill them out, to sign them,

and to send them to the Registration Office.

2. Educating church members.

Teach Biblical doctrines on the sin of homosexuality (Lev. 18:22; Rom1:26,27) in worship services and Sunday schools. Expose the danger of modern-day homo-



Chinese Christian interceding for America

sexual movement, and share how to resist their subversive schemes.

3. Mobilization to vote.

Mobilize the whole church and help members to vote in November (or by absentee ballot). Instruct the details of the voting process, and provide transportation for the elderly.

If any help is needed, please contact Traditional Family Coalition at 408-636-0037.

(Written by America, Return to God Prayer Movement (www.artgusa.org), Traditional Family Coalition (www.tfcus.org), and Great Commission Center International (www.gcciusa.org); translated by Chi-Yu King)



America, Return To God Prayer meetings in San Francisco Bay Area.

UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES: WHAT TIME IS IT?

Samuel Ling

What time is it? Where are we in the history of mankind? How should the church respond?

For many evangelicals, it has not been part of our tradition to analyze the progress of history and discern the present moment in history. We want to be sure that the Lord Jesus will return soon; we should be separate from this world, live holy lives, preach the gospel with all our might. Beyond this we have a dichotomous view of spirituality: what is spiritual is spiritual; what is secular is secular, and never will the two meet. There have been some recent changes. So many things are unfolding before our very eyes: natural disasters and human tragedy, the revival of Islam, the bankruptcy of morality and the breakdown of the family, the political power of the homosexual political lobby, the rise of the New Age Movement and pagan religions, the impotence of evangelical churches and theologians... There is a tremendous famine of the Word of God in the church and the pulpit of the church. Marketing and advertising are having their field day among pastors, secular psychology has supplanted Bible-based counseling, and the people of God are hungry to be fed ... Discerning souls are worried; they ask: what kind of moment are we living in? At the same time, our own lives and churches are becoming more secular, especially our ministry styles. The church is in the world, but the world should never be in the church. What, however, is in fact happening?

We say we reject secular culture, but we are being eaten up alive by it. We are like frogs in the kettle; the water is being heated up, yet we don't know we face death.

I. What time is it?

In terms of the history of western thought and culture, we are living in the postmodern period. Postmodernity is different from modernity. Postmodernity critiques modern thought and culture, and yet is an extension of the latter. So what is "modernity"?

Beginning with the Renaissance in the sixteenth century, modern culture has highlighted the absolute autonomy of man. Man refuses to submit to authority, especially religious authority. Man believes in almighty science (or we should say, man has a religiously superstitious faith in science), and in the power of reason. Rationalism

and empiricism, two schools of philosophy in the 17th and 18th centuries, are representatives of the Enlightenment project, and are symbolic of early modern thought. Their representatives are Rene Descartes, Spinoza, John Locke, and David Hume. In the 1790s, Immanuel Kant pushes the autonomy of man one step further, toward a more thoroughgoing rejection of authority. Man has come of age; questions of religion and morality are placed outside the realm of science and reason (phenomenal realm) in the noumenal realm. Meanwhile, science and reason are limited to understand only the outward of matter (rather than knowing the "thing in itself"). Truths, such as God, free will, immortality, love and ethics – are beyond human reason (they are irrational!).

Kant is a watershed in modern thought. After him,



19th century (or late modern thought) are all influenced by Kant. The subjective takes the place of the objective, the relative for the absolute. For example, romanticism (or idealism) believes that truth, goodness and beauty are all subjective. Materialism (Ludwig Feuerbach and Karl Marx are its spokesmen) rejects the existence of God and the soul. Historical criticism and

Biblical criticism casts doubts on the miraculous recorded in Scripture. Darwin came up with the theory of evolution. Then existential philosophy, from Soren Kierkegaard to Jean Paul Sartre, denies the existence of truth, upholding man's momentary encounters and decisions. Existentialism and nihilism signify the end of modern thought. Rev. Stephen Tong said that 19th century ideas have been put into practice in the laboratory of the 20th century – thus the 20th century was a "century of foolishness." Well said indeed.

Postmodern thought is thoroughly man-centered, just like late modern thought: it refuses to submit to God and God's Word. It believes in man's autonomy, especially the subjective and the emotional. Therefore, those so-called evangelical theologians who admire the neo-orthodoxy of Karl Barth, Emil Brunner and T.F. Torrance (rather, the former should be more accurately called "neo-evangelicals"), even though they call themselves "evangel-

icals,” lack an inner power to critique postmodern thought. We can see this frustration from the theological writings of a number of Hong Kong theologians in the past 20 years. One kind of humanism cannot critique another! These theologians seek to face up to contemporary thought, and dialogue with other theologians around the world, but they cannot offer Biblical revelation as their presupposition and method. They participate in discussions in secular theological circles, but in the end are absorbed by them. They are like Friedrich Schleiermacher, the father of modern (liberal) theology. Their motive is admirable: to witness to their contemporaries and fellow-intellectuals, to seek to prove that the Christian faith is in line with contemporary thought. Yet they give up the absolute authority and truthfulness of Scripture, and regard doctrines such as the inerrancy of Scripture as out of date. Thus their attempts are futile. And this is one of the reasons why there is a famine of the Word of God in the church and the church’s pulpit.

The representative religious faith of postmodernity is the New Age Movement, especially the western world. New Agers believe that God is man, man is God; God and the universe are the same, the universe is God; and man and the universe are one. This is thorough-going monism and pantheism. The reader is directed to the analysis of this “monism” by Dr. Peter Jones (check out the website



New Age Movement Symbol

of his ministry, Christian Witness to a Pagan Planet: www.cwipp.org).

The representative philosophy of postmodernity is deconstructionism; its representative thinker is Jacques Derrida. Deconstructionists believe that “the text is dead” and “the author is dead.” This means that one can no longer find the originally intended meaning of the author of a text. All is interpretation, there is no meaning. The best introduction to deconstruction written by an evangelical is Kevin J. Vanhooover’s *Is There a Meaning in This Text?*, available in Chinese translation from Campus Evangelical Fellowship of Taiwan. Vanhooover, a research professor at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, is too polite toward Derrida; he could have given a much stronger

and scathing critique. However his interpretation of deconstructionism is detailed and fair. His book is must reading!

Where is the soul of mankind? Who will teach our children that “there is meaning in this text”? How will our next generation learn, beginning with serious Bible study, to rebuild the meaning of language – and onto rebuild mankind’s thought and civilization/

II. What time is it?

If we look at China’s history, it seems that the period beginning with the Opium War (1839-42),



during which China faced imperialistic attacks and sought to “stand up” to remove her shame in the international arena, has come to an end. Today, the challenges which China and overseas Chinese (the so-called “Cultural China”) are very similar to those faced by the west: the bankruptcy of morality and the breakdown of the family, the ecological crisis, alienation between people brought on by relentless and ruthless capitalism, materialism, hedonism, the increasing gap between rich and poor, the energy crisis, the impotence of education experts to face up to “the Me generation,” the deluge of information (and concurrent lack of wisdom), and the rise of Asian religions (China’s government now encourages the worship of Confucius!).

The church in China has emerged from the days of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76) when she was persecuted, to a period in which the urban church is the key player. Today the church in the cities have a direct impact on the church in the countryside. Those “Cultural Christians” (i.e., scholars in mainland China studying Christianity) who began in 1978 to seek to translate and introduce western thought to China, have moved into a period of relative maturity, when they are translating western and Christian classics. This shows that Christianity, as a social institution and human religion, has moved from the margins of Chinese society to “the margin of the mainstream.”

How is the church in China doing today? Traditionally, evangelicals have stressed personal piety, evange-

lism, the growth of the church and holy living, and have grossly neglected theology, apologetics, and the critique and reconstruction of culture. As a result, the most significant trend in today's church in China is the rise of neo-evangelicalism: heavy on activities, collaboration and interpersonal relationships, seeking to move away from what they perceive to be the narrowness and closedness of traditional fundamentalism. In the past 30 years, the church in China has been the recipient of concern and support from overseas Christians. Partly as a result of this, the church is moving into a period in which pragmatism and other secular modes of thought and behavior have taken over traditional piety. This makes her not that different from the evangelical church overseas.

Where is the soul of China? Where is the soul of China's church? Who will weep for the soul of China? Who will build Chinese souls with the Word of God, one life at a time? Who will build the church's soul, one small group at a time? There are no shortcuts, only a challenge to relentless labor.

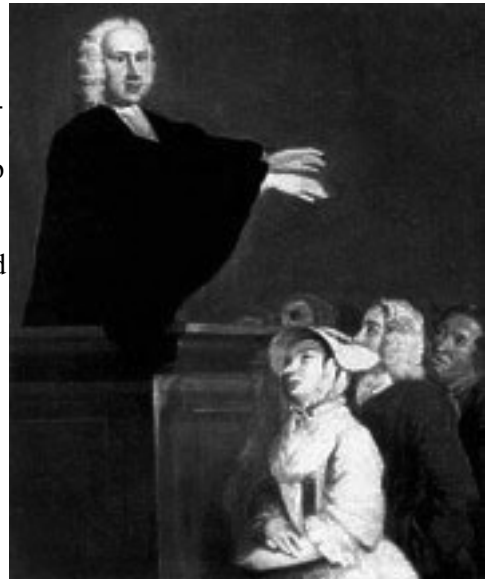
III. What time is it?

From the perspective of the evangelical church and evangelical theology, we are witnessing today the loss of evangelicalism's orthodoxy.

The evangelical church inherited, from the Protestant Reformation, a solid and rich heritage. The Reformers stood for "sola Scriptura" (the Bible is the highest authority in faith and life, the church isn't), "Christ only" (Christ the only mediator between God and man, saints are not), "grace only" (man cannot trust in his works for salvation), "faith only" (man cannot be saved through the sacraments or good works), and "for God's glory only" (the goal of salvation, life, and the universe). The second-generation leaders of the Reformation, the English Puritans (1555-1710), preached the pure gospel rediscovered by the Reformation, to the cities and villages of England. The Puritans brought about the Christianization of English society and



culture. In the eighteenth century, German Pietism and English Methodism (3rd generation descendants of the English Puritans), brought on the "Great Awakening," reviving the church in Europe, England and North America. In addition to renewing man's relationship with God, the Great Awakening is the force behind social reforms, the missionary movement, universal education, children's Sunday School, the abolition of slavery (in England), and a variety of charitable enterprises (many are still in operation today).



The Great Awakening

This is our spiritual heritage; yet evangelicals have been neglecting it, so we are in the midst of losing our soul today.

The word "evangelical" means "Protestant" in the German-speaking and Spanish-speaking world. After the Great Awakening, those Christians in England who were influenced by this revival were called "the evangelical party," such as the forefather of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, Charles Simeon, who for many years pastored Holy Trinity Church in Cambridge, England. He trained and disciplined many students, who went on to found the Bible society and equip mission leaders. Then there was William Wilberforce, the evangelical Member of Parliament who worked for the abolition of slavery all his life (featured in the recent movie, *Amazing Grace*). In the United States, many leading preachers fought for social reform, and did not see this in any way opposite to preaching the gospel. Such prominent pulpits include Henry Ward Beecher, Congregational pastor in Brooklyn, New York, and Jonathan Blanchard, the founder of Wheaton College (Illinois). During the Civil War, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (Covenanters) led in the "underground railroad," hiding and transporting slaves in hiding.

From this brief survey, we can see that "evangelicalism" is far more than reading the Bible, prayer, evangelism, and holy living. It cannot be reduced, such as done by sociologists of religion, to "anyone who likes Billy Graham." There is a rich tradition in evangelicalism in Biblical conviction, theological doctrine, piety, revival, missions, apologetics, social service and reform. However, liberal theology came to America from Europe, first infecting the seminaries. The church in America faced a severe challenge. In response to liberal theology, there were a

few leaders took up the lead in responding with a biblical apologetic: Charles Hodge and B.B. Warfield of Princeton Theological Seminary. Princeton was the bastion of this orthodox belief system until the 1920s, when the seminary and the Presbyterian Church in the USA became dominated by liberal pastors and elders. In 1898, the Prime Minister of Holland, Abraham Kuyper (also a theologian and the founder of the Free University of Amsterdam) gave a series of lectures at Princeton University. He warned the church in America not to follow the footsteps of the church in Europe. He declared that the history of human civilization will always be a battlefield between idolatry and the worship of the true God. In the 1900s, evangelical leaders from various denominations and theological persuasions wrote chapters for the series of books entitled *The Fundamentals*, giving a united voice, crossing denominational lines, for a lively orthodoxy. This is a united voice and a consensus which should be admired, emulated and rebuilt today.

Did the evangelical church take Kuyper's warning to heart? As we review history, it is easy to see that the 1890s was the golden age of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Mission (SVM).



Dwight L. Moody

Dwight L. Moody preached a simple gospel, using mass-evangelism techniques and the tool of the independent ministry organization. Moody also avoided doctrinal accuracy and debate. (See George Marsden, *Fundamentalism and American Culture*.) His influence among British and North American students came to a climax in the 1890s. The motto of John R. Mott,

leader of the SVM, was "the evangelization of the world in this our generation." The Industrial Revolution brought wealth and prosperity to many in western societies, as well as a tremendous gap between rich and poor; the Victorian Age is the period in which it is said, "the sun never sets on the British Empire." During this period, missionaries took the gospel to China, India, Africa and Latin America. To train up missionaries efficiently and quickly, the Bible Institute came into being, such as Moody Bible Institute and the Missionary Training Institute under A.B. Simpson's leadership (now Nyack College and Alliance Theological Seminary).

But, while churches are growing and the num-



Westminster Theological Seminary

ber of missionaries and Bible institutes increasing, the inner life of the church, especially in doctrinal conviction, is decaying. Liberal theology first captured seminaries (1870s and 1880s), then many of the major pulpits in America by early 20th century. By the 1920s, major denominations and their seminaries are dominated by liberal ministers and leaders. Conservatives at Princeton Theological Seminary were forced to leave and launch Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia in 1929. In the 1930s and 1940s, the fundamentalists also battled the liberals among the Baptists, giving rise to the birth of the Conservative Baptist Association.

In response to liberal theology, many evangelicals left the mainline churches. Others decided to stay, or at least dialogue with the mainline. Fuller Theological Seminary, founded in 1947, is representative of this "Neo-evangelicalism." Their founding purpose was most admirable: to respond to "world civilization in crisis" by building "an evangelical Harvard of the West," building an evangelical theology which is up-to-date in her agenda, and publishing books which would be respected by the academic world. However, by the 1960s, Fuller was to give up her former belief in the inerrancy of Scripture, and under the leadership of president David Hubbard, it became a major trans-denominational higher school of learning which is friendly to all major (read: mainline) denominations. Fuller has authorized the writing of her history: see George Marsden, *Reforming Fundamentalism*.

By the 1980s, other evangelical seminaries and thinkers followed the lead of Fuller, seeking to earn their place in the academic and theological world. As a result, traditional, orthodox doctrines have been laid aside one by one. Even John R.W. Stott stood up to oppose the idea of Biblical inerrancy (see his own words in the book, *Evangelical Truth*). J.I. Packer points out in his *Truth and Power* that, the consensus among the vast majority of theologians today (including evangelicals) is that the Bible

is (merely) a book written by humans. The Lausanne Covenant (1974) was a contemporary statement of faith representing all evangelicals; it declares the inerrancy of Scripture as the capstone of evangelical belief. By 1980, evangelical theologian Bernard Ramm published a declaration of neo-orthodox faith in his *Beyond Fundamentalism*. He has embraced Barth's neo-orthodoxy whole-heartedly. We see this also in 1980-81 in a series of articles in Chinese Churches Today magazine, introducing and celebrating liberal theologians without critique. These are symbolic of what is happening among Chinese theologians today.



It has been almost thirty years since Ramm's declaration of neo-orthodox faith. In the past twenty-some years, a variety of ideas and trends have eroded the church's vitality and purity: marketing and advertising (in church growth), secular psychology (through so-called "pastoral counseling, using psychological theories to rule over the use of Scripture in counseling), New Age meditation (such as "Inner Healing" and other uses of hypnosis), optimism in man's goodness (the "positive thinking" of Norman Vincent Peale, the "possibility thinking" of Robert Schuller, and Joel Olsteen's similar Health and Wealth gospel), the "Openness of God" theology which denies God's omniscience (its representatives are Clark Pinnock and Roger Boyd, Baptist theologians in Canada and the U.S. – the book by that title was published by Inter Varsity Press in 1994), and a re-interpretation of sin (a professor of psychology at Biola University remarked that sin is the failure of man to have his needs met). How have evangelicals faced up to this extreme secularization within evangelicalism?

Where is the soul of evangelicalism? Who will build a force for apologetics? Who will unite believers from different denominations and doctrinal persuasions (Baptists, dispensationlists, Wesleyans, Reformed, Alliance, Evangelical Free, and all kinds of independent churches and mission organizations), to rally behind a common faith in the inspiration and inerrancy of Scripture? Who will offer traditional orthodoxy as an alternative to secular evangelicalism? Who will rebuild the evangelical pulpit?

What time is it? Is time for us to wake up? Is it the prelude and dawn of another Protestant Reformation?

(Dr. Samuel Ling is president of China Horizon, and Professor of Systematic theology at International Theological Seminary, El Monte, CA)

THE AWAKENING AMERICA ALLIANCE CALLS FOR "CRY OUT AMERICA!"

In 2001, extremist enemies assaulted America with the terrorist attacks of 9-11. These acts of aggression signaled a physical wake up call as we entered the new millennium. America and many of her allies united together in immediate response. Vigilance increased. Security tightened. Reserves were activated and the nation was moved to action.

Now, Seven years later, a new spiritual wake up call will be issued on 9-11-08. This spiritual alarm will be sounded by Christian believers across America in a nation-wide, simultaneous prayer gathering. Cry Out America calls for us to gather at every county courthouse from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm. on this notable day in a united response before the Lord. Together we will cry out for God's mercy at the place of justice and focus prayer on awak-

ening America for Christ.



The Awakening America Alliance believes that now is the time to united for America's future. Supernatural intervention is the only hope of turning the spiritual tide in our day. In every great awakening throughout history, extraordinary, united prayer has been critical. We need your involvement in making September 11 an extraordinary day of prayer.

We would like for you to prayerfully consider becoming involved by coordinating your county's Cry Out America gathering. Many of the 3141 counties in the United States still need coordinators to facilitate and lead this event. If you believe that extraordinary prayer is needed to awaken America and you are willing to be used of God in making it happen, please contact Awakening America (mail@awakeningamerica.us).

World Mission News

China : Only officially approved Chinese Christian chaplains are allowed to enter the Olympic Village at the 2008 Games in Beijing. Some agencies are encouraging Christian athletes to minister to other athletes personally and to interact with university students who are quite open to speak to foreigners. They are also told to use resources in the local bookstores that are stocked with Bibles and evangelistic material. It is hoped that the games will help open China up as it did to Mexico and Spain.

<Christianity Today, May/08>

US : About 38% of the estimated 82 million Catholics in the US are Hispanic, with nearly half less than 30 years old. Though the number of Hispanic in the country is growing, number of Hispanic adults who identify themselves as Catholic is falling -- 68% in 2006, down from 75% in 1990.

<Dallas Morning News, 2/16/08>

Senegal : In capital Dakar, there are at least 7,600 child beggars mostly boys. They collect on average 72 cents a day each and net their keepers \$2 million a year. 90% of them are brought here under the guise of Islam with their families' blessing to learn Islam's holy book. They spent 2 hours a day memorizing verses from Quran and over 9 hours begging. Worldwide there are 1.2 million children trafficked to work for the benefit of others.

<Dallas Morning News, 4/27/08>

US : Last April tornado ripped through one US storehouse, leaving thousands of wearable shoes in dented boxes unsellable. They were given to an agency that distributes them to orphans overseas. The president of Ethiopia told the agency that the show of their genuine love earns them the right to share the gospel with the children.

<Buckner International, www.buckner.org, 5/23/08>

Turkey : While lives of Christians in Turkey are still very difficult, Bible correspondence courses continue to be very successful, and the internet increases their impact. In 2007, one agency made contact with 20,000 people through newspaper and internet, and a record 450,000 different people visited its course website who can also chat one-on-one with an operator about the gospel. Over 2,000 chat conversations took place in 2007.

<AMG International, www.amginternational.org, 5/29/08>

China : One-child policy has exacerbated grief in the wake of deadly earthquake. Families of dead children feel not only the loss of a child but their future, becoming hopeless and inconsolable. One agency is providing a disaster journal to help people walk through the grieving. They are working in conjunction with local churches to give hope and comfort through God's Word.

<International Bible Society, www.ibs.org, 5/21/08>

Central Africa : Witchcraft is common in the Central African Republic, where 25% of the people is Protestant and 25% Catholic but heavily influenced by animistic religion. A JESUS film team responded to an epidemic of witchcraft by showing the film from village to village. When the witches saw the film and heard the gospel in native language, many were convicted by the Holy Spirit and turned their lives to Christ. This led in 18 new churches planted. Locals now call it "The Miracle Film."

<JESUS Film Project, www.jesusfilm.org, 5/21/08>

Malawi : An agency that began in 2000 to plant and cultivate in Malawi is seeing the harvest now. They started with preaching points, then a training center for elders. Now there are about 75 preaching centers/churches.

<Grace Ministries International, www.gracemi.org, 5/26/08>

Iran : Severe crackdown to enforce Sharia law in Iran that arrested thousands of women and youth plus weary of the economy, government and religious system, have led people to seek real spiritual answers especially among the young. With help of a number of radio and satellite TV gospel programs in native tongue launched in the last 5 years, the local churches are doubling in size every 6 months.

<Mission Network News, www.mnn.gospelcom.net, 5/25/08>

Nigeria : In northern Nigeria, Islamic militant groups are kidnapping Christian teenage girls, forcing them to convert to Islam and marrying older Muslim men. The girls then disappear from sight. After recent rescue of 2 girls by the police and their returned to the parents, militant groups went on a rampage and destroyed 6 churches.

<Voice of the Martyrs, www.persecution.net, 5/22/08>

Egypt, a dominantly Muslim nation with radical elements that kill anyone becoming Christian, is also where technology is changing the youths who prefer not to read but to go online, send text messages, watch movies, and they think of the world much differently than their elders. Mission groups and churches are planing ways to reach the youths with the gospel in competition with many other interest groups. One idea is to include personal touch in their approach.

<Book of Hope International, www.bookofhope.net, 5/26/08>

India : Children's Bible clubs will reach 4.5 million this summer in India. It is hard for radicals to oppose, since in addition to teaching the Bible, the clubs also teach hygienic practices that benefit the children. Recently, they reported 170,000 decisions for Christ, more than half of them parents. In the past years, thousands of churches started through the clubs.

<Mission India, www.missionindia.org, 5/15/08>



MIRACLE IN CENTRAL ASIA

Thomas Wang

During the early 1990, God granted us numerous opportunities to visit and serve in Siberia, Russia and Central Asia.

In Siberia, Russia we worked in Magadan, Kabarovsk, Vladivostok to the east; Tyumen and Huntymansysk in the central area; and Moscow and St. Petersburg to the West.

Among the five nations of Central Asia, God led us to work in Khazakstan and Kyrgyzstan. There are good opportunities to witness to the people through education, medicine, relief, farming etc.

Elder Chia-Shan Yang of Chicago, a retired veteran sea captain, has traveled and worked with me to this area. God has laid a great burden on his heart and has called him into full-time ministry in this area. Elder Yang obeyed God's calling, liquidated his shipping business, together with his dear wife Wan-Cheng Tsui, sent by GCCI in 1995 to work in Central Asia. They served the Lord diligently in Kyrgyzstan throughout the past 12 years.

God has enabled Elder Yang to establish the Central Asia Sharing Aid (CASA), a non-profit organization. In the short span of 12 years he has established 6 middle and grade schools, an orphanage and farm. His is now preparing to start a vocational college with the prospect of growing into a full-fledged Christian University in the future.

At present, the schools enjoy a total of 1,200 students with 320 teachers and staff. Two Christian families, Mr. and Mrs. B.L. Tsai of the Home of Christ in Cupertino, Bay Area, and Mr. & Mrs. S. C. Hung of Los Angeles are serving full-time and long term. In addition, *the Lord's grace Church* of New Jersey is another faithful partners.

By invitation of Elder Yang, I visited Kyrgyzstan in May of this year. What I saw has opened my eyes! Although I have read Elder Yang's work report many times, but nothing can compare with my personal witness of the tremendous growth of the work there, the schools that provide opportunity for daily prayer and Bible reading to the Kyrgyz young people and my personal fellowship with the dedicated co-workers there! The whole enterprise is indeed a miracle in Central Asia!

Looking ahead, the potentials are fruitful and great. Of course it needs the prayer and support of Christians, churches and foundations in the areas of personnel, finance and prayer.

1. PERSONNEL

Elder Young is now 80 years of age. There is a dire

need for middle-aged devout Christians, with a missionary spirit, to join the team as short-term, mid-term and long-term workers. They can serve in the areas of teaching, administration, general affairs, accounting, publicity and promotion. Professional Christian educators are also needed for the coming college and university to serve as professors, deans and president. May God call and lead workers of His own choice to serve in this highly fruitful endeavor.

2. FINANCE

It will not be difficult to see the financial need for the whole operations. May God inspire Christians, churches, fellowships, foundations to consider one-time, regular (monthly, yearly) and long-term support to this worthy ministry. This is a rare opportunity when we can directly serve the Lord's work in an area such as Central Asia.

Please send your donations to: CASA (Central Asia Sharing Aid), 2254 Chenoweth Court, Rockford, IL 61107, USA. Tel: (815) 282-2493, FAX: (815) 282-2495, E-mail: COSMISSION@COMCAST.NET NASA is registered as a non-profit organization in the USA and all donations will receive tax-deductible receipt.

3. PRAYER

Prayer is the most important and vital need. May individual Christians, homes, fellowships, churches in many areas intercede before God for the above ministries and needs.

- (1) The continued opening up of doors in Central Asia.
- (2) The opening up of more doors in the other 3 countries in Central Asia: Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- (3) May God bless and strengthen the Yang family, the Tsai family, the Hung family and all other co-workers there.
- (4) May God supply the personnel and financial needs in Central Asia.
- (5) May God bless and guide the 1,200 students, the 320 teachers and staff there.
- (6) May God bless and guide the coming College and university and to keep them true in Biblical faith.
- (7) May God lead many more Christians, churches and mission teams to Central Asia to serve the over-ripened fields over there!

May God's will be done! Amen!



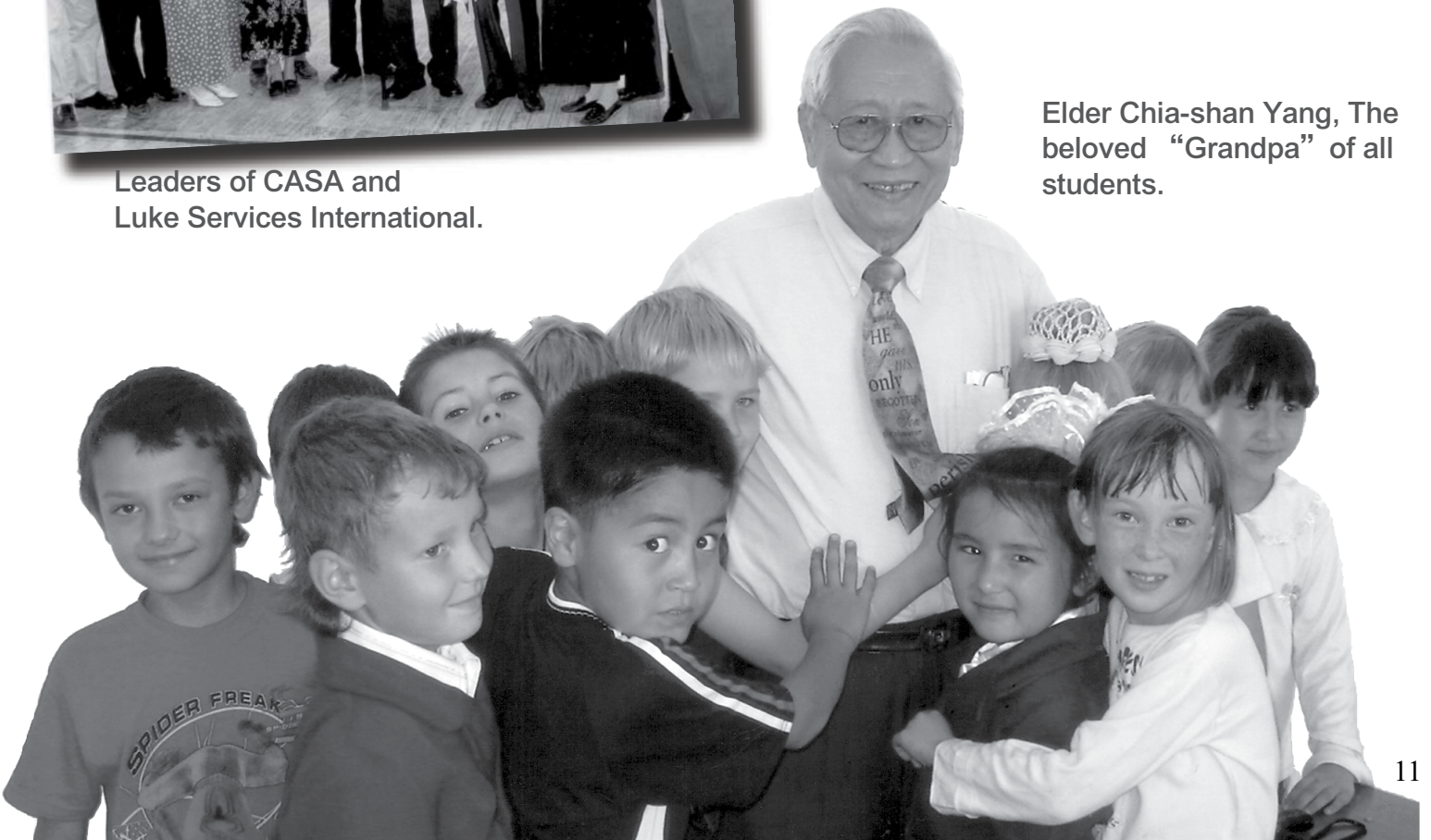
The CASA schools enjoy a multi-ethnic student body including Dongan students of Chinese ancestry.

A total of 1,200 students are enrolled in the six schools of CASA.



Leaders of CASA and Luke Services International.

Elder Chia-shan Yang, The beloved "Grandpa" of all students.



"AMERICA RETURN TO GOD"



PRAYER RALLY
with Dr. Bill Gothard

Repentance
•
Supplication
•
Healing

9.28.2008

3 PM - Prayer Rally

7 PM - Revival Meeting

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1333 BAYSHORE HIGHWAY
BURLINGAME, CA 94010

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America is facing a fatal disaster --- same-sex marriage! California Supreme Court has recently passed a ruling that was against the will of the majority vote in 2000. It legalizes same-sex marriage beginning June 17, 2008. Attorney generals of ten states urged the California Supreme Court to postpone the execution of the ruling until the general election in November. The suggestion was rejected.

The America, Return To God Prayer Movement is organizing a Prayer Rally and Revival Meeting on September 28 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Burlingame, CA near the SF Airport. Please come to join brothers and sisters of different ethnicities to pray for America. The speaker will be Dr. Bill Gothard, Founder of Institute in Basic Life Principles.

May God have mercy upon America and encourage the church to stand up for the Biblical teaching on marriage.