

Four Major International Consultations and Celebrations in 2010



2010 will mark the centennial of the World Missionary Conference held in Edinburgh in 1910 (commonly known as Edinburgh 1910). It was not only the first of its kind in mission history, more importantly it helped to set the tune for mission works in the 20th century.

Four international mission conferences on four continents are being planned in celebration and memory of the 1910 event. They are:

Tokyo 2010

Full Name: Global Mission Consultation & Celebration – From Edinburgh to Tokyo

Conference Theme: Celebrating the Past and Embracing the Future

Date: May 11-15, 2010

Location: Nakano Sun Plaza, Tokyo, Japan

Initiator: US Center for World Mission

www.tokyo2010.org

Edinburgh 2010

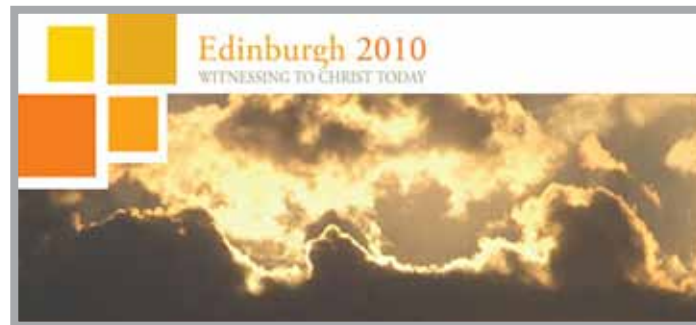
Conference Theme: Witnessing to Christ Today

Date: June 2-6, 2010

Location: New College, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

Expected Participants: 1,000

www.edinburgh2010.org



Capetown 2010

Full Name: Lausanne III: Capetown 2010

Conference Theme: The Whole Church, The Whole Gospel, The Whole World

Date: October 16-25, 2010

Location: Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa.

Expected Participants: 4,000

Organizer: Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (in association with World Evangelical Alliance)

www.lausanne.org



Boston 2010

Conference Theme: Changing Contours of World Mission and Christianity

Date: November 4-7, 2010

Location: Boston Theological Institute, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Participants: Seminary students and faculty, especially from the Greater Boston Area

Organizer: Boston Theological Institute

www.2010boston.org



GREAT

2009 Fall

COMMISSION NEWS

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America Return to God Prayer Rally Real Hope and Real Change

The annual America Return To God Prayer Rally was successfully held on September 27 (Sunday), 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel near San Francisco International Airport. More than 500 participants of different ethnicities came for each session. The afternoon session was bi-lingual, while the evening session was in English only. The theme for this year's Rally was: Real Hope, Real Change.

Dr. Luis Palau, an Argentine evangelist was the keynote speaker for both sessions. Dr. Palau is a world-class evangelist. His ministries extended from Latin America to Asia and the entire world. Dr. Palau migrated to USA in the 1960s. He has seen the gradual change of America and has the burden for her spiritual renewal. Although in his 70s, he is well accepted by the young people. Dr. Palau shared with the congregation that after he preached at the Chinese Cumberland Presbyterian Church that morning, he ran into a Gay Pride Parade in San Francisco and saw two totally naked men walking on the street and one naked woman dancing in a cage up in

the air. America is becoming today's Sodom and Gomorrah.

In the evening session, Professor Christopher Yuan of Moody Bible Institute gave his testimony. He was born in Chicago to immigrant parents from Taiwan and China. He told the audience that his homosexual inclination was influenced by pornography when he was still in elementary school. However, he hid his feeling until he went to college. Then, he lived publicly as a homosexual and had different sexual partners. In order to support his life style he was involved in drug trafficking. He was kicked out of Dental School only four months before his graduation when the school found out his inappropriate behavior. Then, he became a professional drug dealer. He ran farther

and farther away from God, But God did not give up on him. He was caught by the FBI and was sentenced to 6 years in prison. He came to Christ when he found a Bible in the trash can in prison. He shared with the audience of his spiritual pilgrimage from a homosexual, a



drug dealer, and a prisoner to a Bible teacher.

The messages from two speakers inspired the entire congregation to pray fervently for America, her federal and state governments, social and moral issues, educational system, economic crisis, and the younger generation. America needs to repent and to change her allegiance in order to have REAL HOPE.

Four years ago, God used GCCI's Founder and President Emeritus Dr. Thomas Wang to initiate the America Return to God Prayer Movement (ARTGPM). GCCI has been involved with the Movement from the beginning.



It is our prayer that this Prayer Movement will spread to other parts of the United States. Dr. Wang has edited the America Return To God booklet (1st edition was published in 2006, and the 2nd revised edition was published in May 2009). If you would like to have a copy please write to GCCI. Love donation for the book and postage is much appreciated.

The following Statement has been issued by ARTGPM for media use.



Our Confession and Conviction

1. We confess that America is heading in the wrong direction and drifting away from God.
2. We confess that the decline of our country, be it economical, moral, educational and political, is mainly the result of deviation from biblical principles.
3. We confess our corporate and individual sins and ask God for forgiveness. We seek God's transforming power to deliver us from our bondage of sin.
4. We believe that the destruction of traditional values will produce domino effects in social, educational, and political spheres, and will cause much suffering to the people.
5. We believe that the institution of marriage between one man and one woman originated from God at the beginning of the human race is the only legitimate marital system that provides a healthy environment for parents and children.
6. We believe that REAL HOPE does not come from human or governmental endeavor, but from God, the Creator and Sustainer of all.
7. We believe that if we humble ourselves before God and turn from our sinful ways, He will hear our prayers and grant REAL CHANGE to America.

America must return to God for Real hope and Real change!

GCCI NEWS

THE FIRST INTERNET MISSION FORUM HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

By the invitation of several Internet Mission workers, GCCI initiated the first Internet Mission Forum among Chinese churches in USA. The Forum was held on August 29, Saturday, 2009 at the Home of Christ Church in Menlo Park, California.

The discussion topics covered in the Forum were: The Importance of Internet Mission, My Experience in Internet Mission, How to Write Articles for Blogs in China, Reaching Overseas Chinese through Internet, How to Equip Church members for Internet Mission, Internet Mission and Christian Discipling etc.

About 50 participants from various States came to the Forum. Most of them met each other for the first time, even though they knew each other's name or read each other's articles for a period of time. They enjoyed the fellowship and were encouraged to see God has raised a group of people who are burdened to use Internet to reach the unreached "I Generation".

They have asked GCCI and the Campus Evangelical Fellowship/Overseas Campus Magazine to conduct the next Forum sometime next year in San Diego.



Jamie Taylor visited GCCI International Office and Spoke on The Challenge of the 21st Century



Rev. Jamie Taylor, the great great grandson of the Founder of China Inland Mission, James Hudson Taylor, paid a visit to GCCI office on Oct 21, 2009. After his meeting with our Founder and President Emeritus Dr. Thomas Wang, Rev. Taylor met with GCCI other staff members.

Jamie is the fifth generation of the Taylor family working among Chinese. His late father is James Taylor III, who was the founding president of China Evangelical Seminary in Taiwan and also the seventh General Director of OMF International (known as China Inland Mission from 1865 to 1965). Jamie was born and raised up in Taiwan while his parents were missionaries there. He speaks fluent English, Mandarin and Taiwanese. His wife is a Taiwanese-Chinese. Jamie has the burden to help Chinese churches engaged in cross-cultural missions.

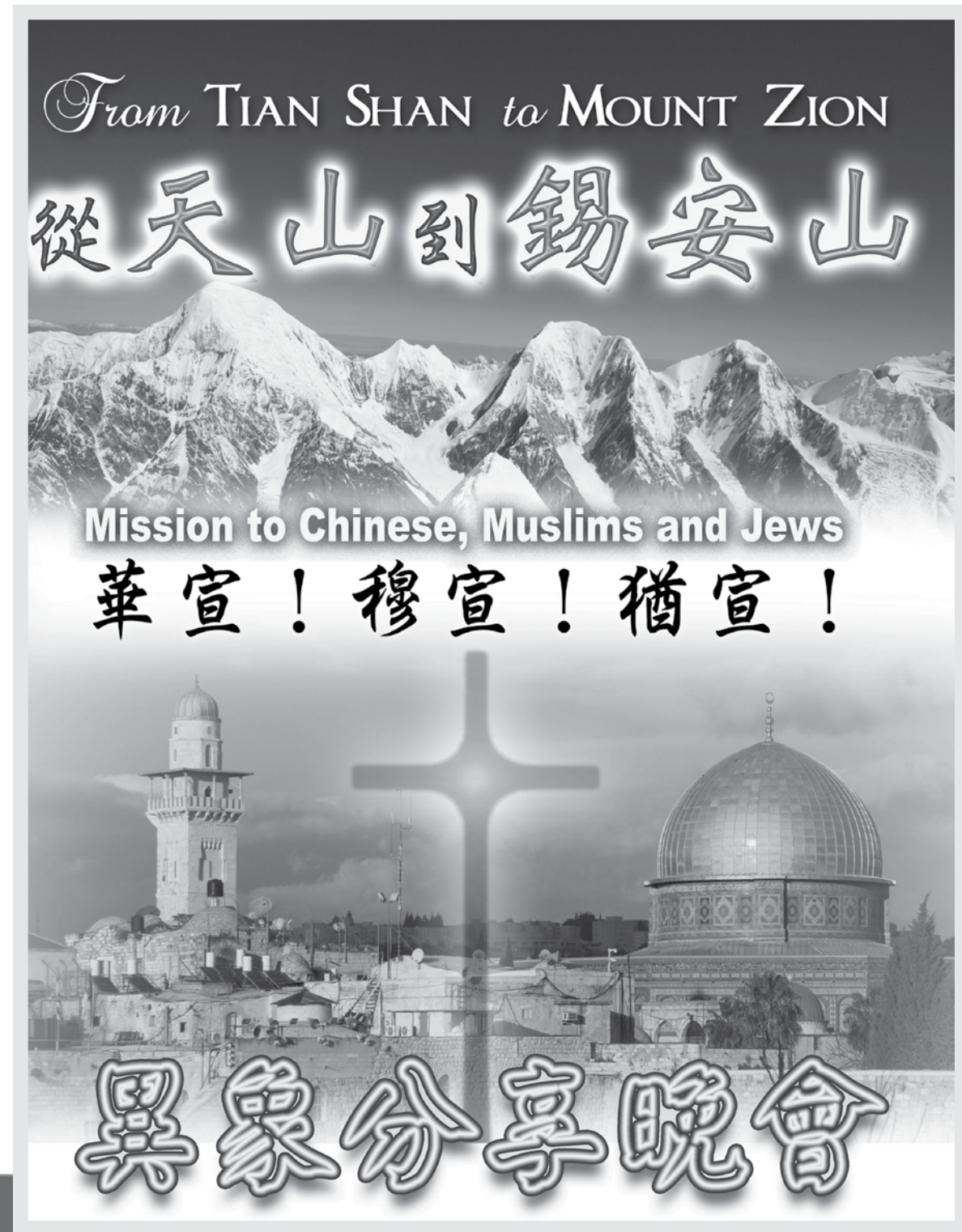
Taking the opportunity of Jamie's visit, GCCI invited faculty and staff of three Christian organizations and one seminary to have a fellowship meeting. Jamie shared with the group on the topic of The Challenge of the 21st Century from his heart. He pointed out that we are entering the "Post Western Missionary Era" as missionaries from the developing countries already surpass the number of western countries since AD2000. Most of the western countries have become post-Christian nations. They are the 5th largest mission field. It was projected that in 2020 there will be 0 member in Anglican Church in Scotland.

In view of the development of the world

scene, he proposed the following seven approaches for Chinese churches to launch global missions:

1. Unreached People: those in the Buddhist World, Hindu World, Muslim World (15 billion, one fourth of the world population), Atheism, Animism are the most unevangelized people.
2. Marketplace Mission: Over 80% of the Asian population is living in Creative Access Nations. We need professionals to be Light and Salt among them.
3. Urban Mission: Over 50% of the world population today is living in cities.
4. Diaspora Mission: Reaching the immigrants, expatriates and manual workers as God has brought them to our doorsteps. Think globally and act locally are the key for diaspora mission.
5. Holistic Mission: Penetrate into the society. Evangelicals need to balance evangelistic mandate and cultural mandate in our mission work.
6. Long-Term Mission: short-term mission cannot replace long-term mission.
7. Cross-Cultural Mission: Hudson Taylor proposed "Mission to Every Creature" in 1889. Today it is the Chinese Church to pay gospel debts to all creatures.

There was also a time for Questions and Answers during lunchtime. Everyone enjoyed highly the event.



GCCI will Hold Vision Sharing and Fund Raising Dinner

GCCI will have a Vision Sharing meeting at 5-8pm, on November 21 (Saturday), 2009 at Living Word Christian Center in Milpitas, California. (1494 California Circle, Milpitas, CA 95035.) The Sharing meeting will be from 5pm to 6:30pm and dinner will be served at 6:30pm.

The theme for this meeting will be "From Mount Heaven (Tian Shan) to Mount Zion". Reverend Dr. Thomas Wang, Founder and President Emeritus of GCCI will share on the topic "From Tian Shan to Mount Zion – Today's Challenge." Dr. Sharon Chan, President of GCCI will share how GCCI will respond to Today's Challenge in her ministry plan.

WORLD MISSION NEWS

Compiled by Samuel C. Y. Ling

USA: Economic downturn has pinched the budgets of mission agencies, though funding remains strong for missionaries who raise their own support. Churches and families in hard times are more likely to cut out a faceless organization than the missionary they know personally. Meanwhile, number of people who want to be missionaries stays steady.

<Christianity Today, September/09>

East Germany: Two decades after the fall of Berlin wall, this region is a majority-atheist society with 70% of people virtually ignorant of Christianity (compared with 30% of West Germans). As the social gospel preached in many churches sounds very much like the Nazi and Soviet propaganda, church leaders rediscover evangelism as the very nature of the church. The use of the Alpha course has led to slow conversions.

<Christianity Today, October/09>

Muslims: An agency has been effective in sharing the gospel with Muslims. The Muslims are taught to believe in three holy books besides the Qur'an. The Qur'an takes precedence because the others have been corrupted/changed. God first sent the Torah, then the Psalms and the Injil (the New Testament). Finally, He sent the Qur'an. If you question if the Qu'ran can be changed, the imams will say: "No. God keeps His word." So, you may argue that the Injil can not be changed since it is also God's word. With this, Muslims usually accept the New Testament and open to dialog.

<Crescent Project, www.crescentproject.org, 8/27/09>

USA: 42% of scientists ages 18-34 say they believe in God, only 28% 65 and older say so. 59% of African-Americans say they are born again, 46% of all Americans make this claim.

<Christianity Today, September/09>

TV Evangelism: Recently Mel Gibson's Passion of the Christ film was shown on national TV in a Muslim country. 65,000 send text messages for more information. They were directed to a website video prompting them to explore their religious faith. Of these, 6,500 were Muslims requesting New Testaments. After receiving the New Testament, 85 responded back saying they have made decisions for Christ, about 30 of these represented a group of people.

<Pioneers, www.pioneers.org, 8/5/09>

Congo-DRC: A team of evangelists from a US agency last summer visited 16 villages to share the gospel and train others in evangelism. 200 church workers were trained and 847 professed faith in Christ. They planned to visit 100 more villages in the last three months of the year.

<Grace Ministries International, www.gracemi.org, 9/2/09>

Kenya: A new Kiswahili Bible was published recently that will benefit 60 million speakers of the language in Kenya and 7 other neighboring nations. It replaces a much older version kind of like the King James Version very difficult to understand.

<International Bible Society, www.ibs.org, 9/7/09>

Logos Hope: After a successful tour of ports in England, the new gospel ship arrived at St Vincent Island. From July 28 to August 11, over a third of the population (~120,000) visited the educational book fair on board. Crewmembers went ashore to the churches, orphanage and prison, and held a conference for pastors on the ship with emphasis on international co-operation and prayer. Over 100 received Christ during this period. The ship will continue its visit to Grenada, Trinidad and Barbados in the Caribbean.

<Operation Mobilization, www.omusa.org, 8/21/09>

Pakistan: At a wedding ceremony, the loudspeaker repeated a broadcast from the local mosque and shouted, Christians tore pages from a Qur'an and compounded the disrespect by walking on the shredded pages. Answering the call to "Defend Islam," a mob rampaged through a Christian section of Gojra on Aug. 1. Eight persons were killed, including women and children. More than 100 homes were burnt. The mob, estimated to be over 20,000, also burnt a church. The authority have now said no Qur'an was desecrated, and promised to help rebuild the homes.

<Voice of the Martyrs, www.persecution.com, 8/31/09>

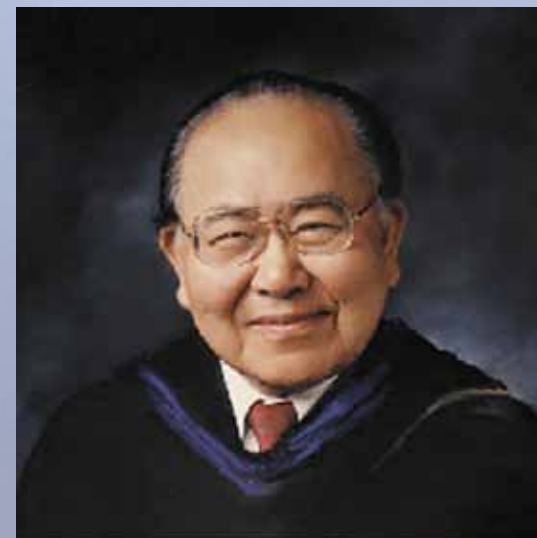
Balkans: Doors are opening in this country to impact the government with the hope of the gospel. For their members to learn the international business language, the Parliament has paid a couple missionaries to teach them English. Some times the discussions turn to spiritual and ethical matters. They have had opportunities to talk about the Orthodox Church's emphasis on good works and the power of God to change people. Some 20-40 members have taken these classes.

<Greater Europe Mission, www.gemission.org, 8/18/09>

India: Experts believe 70% of the people are functionally illiterate which contributes to the poverty and mistreatment of women. An agency has developed effective year-long adult literacy program that includes the gospel message. It takes people from zero to 5th grading reading level in one year. Typically, women gain confidence and self-esteem and learn of the love of Christ. Their lives, families and communities are transformed. Even the Hindu village leaders came to the defense of the classes seeing the impact to their communities.

<Mission India, www.missionindia.org, 9/28/09>

Tribute



DR. TIMOTHY LIN 林道亮牧師
1911-2009

Dr. Timothy Lin, pastor, theological educator and writer, was promoted unto glory on Oct 11, 2009. He was 99 years of age.

Dr. Lin was born into a minister's family on January 18, 1911 in Wenling, Zhejiang, China. He began his long career in church ministries, theological education and preaching since his early 20s from Shanghai, Guangxi, Hangzhou before he relocated to the US in 1948.

After he came to the US he received a B.D. and S.T. M. from Faith Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from the College of Hebrew and Cognate Learnings of Dropsie University. He was a member of one of the Old Testament translation committees for the New American Standard Bible. He also taught at Bob Jones University, Talbot University, Trinity Evangelical Seminary etc.

He was invited to pastor the First Chinese Baptist Church of Los Angeles in 1961. He was invited to serve as the president of China Evangelical Seminary in Taiwan from 1980 to 1990. He retired as Senior Pastor of FCBC only a few years ago.

Even at the age of 99, Dr. Lin still preached regularly at the FCBC and other Chinese churches in the Los Angeles area.

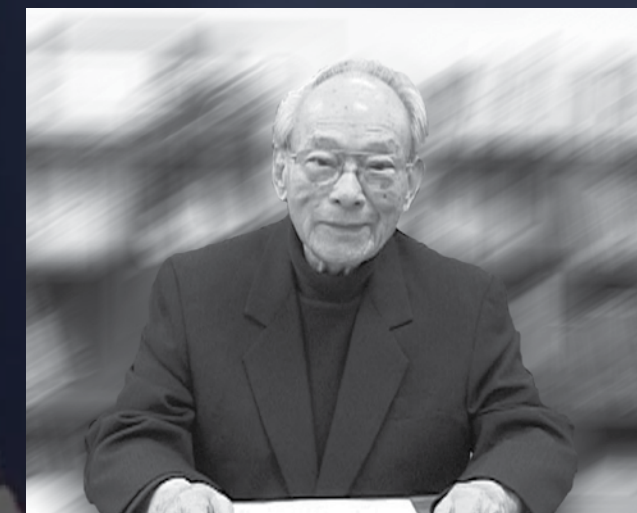
Tribute

REV. MARK CHENG 鄭果牧師
1919-2009

Rev. Cheng was born in Fujian, China. He was a school teacher before he received God's calling for full-time ministry. Before 1949, he went to Hong Kong for theological education and planned to return home after his studies. However, the political situation did not allow him to go back. Thus, he was alone by himself for over 30 years while his wife and 5 children remained in China. God greatly blessed Rev. Cheng and his family. Mrs. Cheng and all of their children and families came out of China and reunited with him in the USA in the 1980s.

God used Rev. Cheng to lead and guide Chinese churches into global mission. When he was a pastor at the Grace Church in Manila, Philippines, he challenged the church to send out or to support one more missionary every year beginning 1961. And in 1966, the Grace Mission Board was formed and started annual mission conference.

When Rev. Cheng joined Chinese Christian Mission (CCM) in 1976, he challenged CCM to start the Foreign Mission Department and formed a Mission Board to send out missionaries from North America. After he retired from CCM, he was invited to pastor the Mountain View Chinese Christian Church and served as her Advisory Pastor until his death. He also helped to start the Gospel Operation International for Chinese in 1995.



Rev. Cheng always reminded the church of the interwoven relationships among local church, seminary, mission agency and the missionary. They need to work closely with each one in order to have a healthy mission-sending Chinese Church. He called this relationship "Four Iron Hinges of Missions".

The Chinese Church will greatly miss Rev. Cheng's insight and his leadership in global missions.