

GREAT

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COMMISSION NEWS

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848 Stewart Dr. Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94085
Tel:408-636-0030, Fax:408-636-0033
Email:info@gcciusa.org

Mission Trip to the Arabic Peninsula

Thomas Wang

It has been five years since my last visit to the Arabic Peninsula. In January of 2009 I was invited to speak at the celebration of the 7th anniversary of Dubai Chinese Christian Church. During our 20 days' stay in the region, Mrs. Wang and I had the opportunity to re-visit four states of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as well as Kuwait.

Needless for me to say, Arabic Peninsula has changed tremendously in the past five years. We enjoyed the twelve-lane freeway, the high-rise buildings and beautiful flowers and trees in the UAE. I could not believe that we were in a desert country. Dubai, UAE's commercial capital, has the highest building and the largest shopping mall in the world. The new aquarium, in-door skating rink, and the most expensive hotel in a man-built island were too luxury to believe.

As most of the Arabian countries, UAE enjoys wonderful oil deposits from God. And they wisely use oil money to transform their desert country into a modern and urbanized nation. Although the entire world is under financial recession, we could still see new constructions going on everywhere in Dubai. Most of the construction workers are cheap laborers from South Asia, the Philippines and China. It is estimated about 80% of the residents in Dubai are foreigners.

After seeing the wonderful developments of the city, our friends took us to visit some of the labor camps for Chinese construction workers. The contrast was amazing! Hundreds and hundreds of workers squeezed in old container dormitories. They do not have any privacy, and were often abused by their superiors.

Dubai Chinese Christian Church

About 10 years ago, God led the Great Commission Center International to encourage several Chinese Christians to start a worship service and to reach out to the Chinese there. Thus, the Dubai Chinese Christian Church was formed in 2002. God has blessed this church; her worship attendance is now about 200. Her members were from different countries, different provinces in China; spoke different dialects and with different cultures. However, they have one thing in common – they met the Lord after they came to Dubai. Under the leadership of a missionary from Canada, the church holds evangelistic meetings regularly and conducts Bible studies, worship service and Sunday schools. Averagely speaking, several hundreds receive Christ as their Savior every year.

(Continued on page 2)



Lunar New Year Outreach in Dubai Chinese Christian Church.

(Continued from page 1)

Mrs. Wang and I had the privilege to join their Chinese New Year Outreach Program on January 23. Through the conjoint efforts of all church members, the celebration drew 1,200 Chinese. The crowd enjoyed singing, skits, Chinese comic dialogues, and folk dances. I was invited to preach a short message. My topic was “Our Beautiful Eternal Homeland”. Praise the Lord that 173 persons responded to the call, and recieved Christ as their Savior.

I also had the opportunity to gave a sermon to all church members at their 7th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on February 6 evening before I took off for the airport.

Kuwait

We were in Kuwait for three days to visit the National Evangelical Church of Kuwait. By the invitation of Rev. Jerry Zandstra, pastor of the International English congregation I spoke at their English Service. I have known Rev. Zandstra for almost 10 years when I first visited Kuwait in 2001. He was from the USA and has been work-

ing in Kuwait for decades. He has graciously embraced the small Chinese congregation in his church. The Chinese congregation also conducted a New Year Celebration to reach out to the Chinese in Kuwait. About 350 came to the Celebration, and 110 accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. The church prepared a simple dinner for all participants to encourage further fellowship.

After all scheduled meetings in Kuwait, we spared a few hours to visit the “Iraq/Kuwait War Museum”. I asked one of the museum staff, “How was the reaction of the people of Kuwait when they heard about the trial and execution of Sad-dem Hussien?” He replied immediately, “We are very happy.” I further asked him, “How do your people thinking about America?” He smiled and said, “A lot of people hope that Kuwait could become the 51st State of America.”

Perspectives Courses

I also had the privilege to teach the “Perspectives” courses in four cities in UAE, namely Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Al Ain. All students are from different countries and are engaged in some forms of outreach program. Most of them are tent-makers and have the burden for the Great Commission. I was happy to share with them, “The Glory of God” and how we can uphold the glory of God in different parts of the world.(with reference to the writing of Steve Hawthorne and John Piper.)

Conclusion

Mrs. Wang and myself enjoyed our short visit and ministries in the Arabic Peninsula. I also had the opportunity to join a fellowship meeting of several Chinese ministers in Dubai. I encouraged them to have regular prayer meetings and to support each other’s ministries in this crucial area of the world.





Back-to-Jerusalem Movement and Gospel Outreach by Chinese

By Da Wei

World mission is not a new issue for the Chinese church. As early as 1928, the Chinese Overseas Mission was established by Robert Alexander Jaffray, for the purpose of spreading the gospel to countries as Vietnam, Lao, and Indonesia. In 1935 John Sung (so-called “flame of China”) began his overseas revival ministry in places like the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia etc.. In 1936, he traveled to Japan-occupied Taiwan, and brought a great revival to local churches throughout the island. During a short span in 1937-40, he traveled to many countries in South-East Asia and led numerous Chinese to Christ.

Back-to-Jerusalem Movement

In 1946, Rev. Gu-Quan Zhang established the Northwest Missionary organization in Shandong province with a goal of gospel outreach all the way to Jerusalem. Their effort reached only Xinjiang region as the country was closed after 1949. He was arrested by the government in 1952.

In 1943, Rev. Mark Ma of Northwest Bible Institute in Shaanxi province felt a burden for the Chinese Christians to preach the gospel “back to Jerusalem”. As a result, the Chinese Back-to-Jerusalem Evangelistic Band consisting of more than 70 teachers/students was formed. In 1946, several band members, including Mecca Zhao and Grace He, were sent to several northwestern provinces/regions. Their goal was to spread the gospel along the Silk Road through Afghanistan, Iran, Arabia, Iraq, and Syria...and all the way to Jerusalem. Unfortunately, this effort was interrupted in 1950.

In spite of the political interruption, however, some band members remained in Xinjiang till their death in early 21st century. By “Back-to-Jerusalem”, they meant the spreading of the gospel through overland historical route westward from China to the Middle East, Near East and unto Jerusalem. To accomplish the Lord’s Great Commission of “preaching the gospel to all peoples”, they affirmed that the Chinese Christians should continue the task all the

way back to Jerusalem.

Gospel Outreach by Chinese

The Chinese Church should now accept the baton in the relay of global missions. To answer this call in the 21st century, churches in the mainland must work with those in Hong Kong, Taiwan, North America, and Southeast Asia, not only in sending out missionaries but also in adjusting the mind set on mission:

- (1) The Chinese churches should learn from Western missionary organizations and actively establish a systematic way of sending out missionaries as part of worldwide missionary work.
- (2) They should establish an information system to unify the missionary work, including training, funding, and miscellaneous supports.
- (3) As part of the training process, Chinese missionaries may preach the gospel first to the minority peoples, including Muslims.
- (4) They may follow the Silk Roads in the sea, as well as on land, and should actively try to understand the custom and culture of the Jews and Muslims.
- (5) The Chinese Christians should continue the effort of trying to persuade the government to legalize the house churches.

*(From Chinese Heart magazine, v.25, p. 11-14, 2009
Translated/condensed from Chinese by Bi-Shia King)*



CLOSE EN

San Francisco City Hall

On March 5 (Thursday) 2009, beginning at 8:00 am, thousands of people gathered at the square in front of San Francisco City Hall and the Supreme Court, with signs raised high and banners flying all over. The opposing sides were shouting their slogans for or against Proposition 8, which was passed by the Californian voters by a majority of 52 % in November 2008, confirming the definition of marriage as between one man and one woman.

The majority of the thousands were against Proposition 8, and they were chanting "No on 8!" The supporters were relatively few, but were bravely chanting "Yes on 8!" Among them were some Christians from Chinese churches; they were talking with individuals and praying in groups, pleading with God to take control over everything.

From 9:00 am, seven Justices were holding a hearing session in the California Supreme Court, listening to the debate between lawyers representing both sides. The hearing process lasted for 3 hours and was broadcasted on a big screen in the square so that huge crowd outside could watch and hear.

Hundreds of supporters and opp
cess on a big screen outside of th



Christians held up signs as warnning to sexual sin.



Mrs. Rachel Wang, Rev. Wilbur Chiu and brother Simon Chan (from left) praying with Christians for the Court session.

Homosexu-
als held sign
to support
same-sex
marriage.



COUNTER

Square . March 5, 2009

During the Hearing, the debate actually never touched the basic problems on same-sex marriage; it dwelled mostly on procedural matters of "Proposition 8". Obviously the opposing side was hoping to find loopholes in the procedure in order to invalidate Prop. 8.

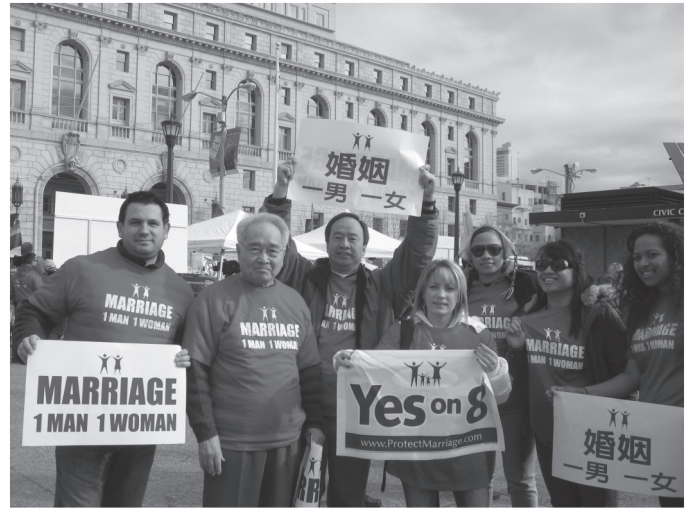
It appears from the speeches of several Justices that they thought Prop. 8 represents the voters' opinion and its legal position should not be infringed upon. The Supreme Court will make a ruling within 90 days. After the Hearing, San Francisco's Mayor, Gavin Newsom (a strong supporter of same-sex marriage) announced that if their effort fails, they will try again two years later!

This is a spiritual warfare that concerns California, America, the world, and also the Church.

Hebrews 12:4 states, "You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin."

May God's churches, servants, and children be faithful to His Kingdom to the end; and may they be His shining and uncompromising witnesses in this evil and dark age!

(Translated from Chinese by Bi-Shia King)



Rev. Thomas Wang (2nd from the left) and brother Thomas Fong (3rd from the left) joined ethnic supporters for Prop. 8.



Youths speak up for traditional Marriage.

Opponents watched the hearing pro-
the California Supreme Court.



Opponents of Prop. 8.



OMF announces the passing of James Hudson Taylor III (1929-2009)

James Hudson Taylor III, great-grandson of the founder of the China Inland Mission, died

on the 20th of March 2009, in Hong Kong. He was born on 12 August 1929 in China's ancient city of Kaifeng of Henan province. His parents served here as missionaries of the Free Methodist Church.

At the age of 12, James Taylor, together with his brother and two sisters, and also grandfather were interned in Weih sien Concentration Camp for three years. James Taylor was always to remember his grandfather's sure faith during this testing time. He wrote 'I saw in Grandpa how the patterns of life had been set. Every day began with praise.' The camp was liberated on 17 August 1945, and the Taylor family reunited the following month.

James Taylor returned to the US for college education and seminary training. In 1951 he married Leone Tjepkema, a fellow student at Spring Arbor and Greenville Colleges.

In June 1955 James and Leone arrived in Taiwan to begin missionary service. They joined the Holy Light Bible School, which was founded by his father. James and Leone's three children (Amelia, Signe, and Jamie) were born during their first term. When James' parents returned to America for home assignment in 1960, James was invited to serve as the principal.

In 1970 he was appointed founding president of China Evangelical Seminary (CES) in Taipei. In this role he travelled extensively among Chinese churches worldwide to impart the vision of higher theological training.

In 1979 James Taylor received an unexpected invitation to become the 7th General Director of Overseas Missionary Fellowship. He took up this position on 1 July 1980. The 1980s brought consolidation and growth across all OMF fields, and strikingly so in

Japan, The Philippines and Hong Kong's new towns; in literature ministry; and among factory workers in Taiwan. Under James Taylor's leadership, OMF was encouraged to continue in their concerns for China & the Chinese people. China Awareness seminars became established across the UK and North America, and new energy went into the creation and distribution of apologetic literature in Chinese.

James & Leone relocated to Hong Kong to seek opportunities to serve the Chinese people after stepping down as the International Director. In 1993, with a Chinese American Professor of Paediatrics and a businessman from Hong Kong, James Taylor formed Medical Services International (MSI), to serve in Sichuan province.

In 1993 the marriage of Jamie, to Ke Yeh Min from Taiwan, brought Chinese blood into the family line. James Taylor took especial delight in teaching Bible stories and New Testament Greek to James Hudson Taylor V (known as JT) and his sisters Selina and Joy, when the whole family lived in Hong Kong. He had a strong sense of legacy; the legacy he had received in the seventh generation of his family's Christian history, and the legacy he himself would pass on.

His ten years of service as founding president of MSI gave him opportunity to work with officials from China central government as well as with provincial and grassroots leaders. The depth of their acceptance and respect is reflected in their referring to him as 'Overseas Chinese'. On 4 April 2007, in a ceremony attended by 300 people, a county of the Sichuan province conferred on him honorary citizenship.

Dr. Taylor's book on the life of Hudson Taylor's father-in-law, *"Even to Death: The Life and Legacy of Samuel Dyer"*, co-authored with Irene Chang, will be published later this year.

James Taylor's memorial services will be held in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore.

World Mission News

Compiled by Samuel C. Y. Ling

China: Disagreement has arisen among overseas mission agencies whether Bibles should be smuggled into China. Some argue that the new press of the Amity Press capable of printing 1 million pieces each month has made smuggling unnecessary. Also, as smuggling is illegal it could harm local believers if caught. Others counter that of the 11 million Bibles and New Testaments in 2008 printed by Amity and about 72 million since it opened in 1988, only 3 million are sold inside China each year. The rest were exported to more than 60 nations. So there is a critical shortage for the most conservative estimate of 40 million Protestants and 14 million Catholics.

<Christianity Today, February/09>

USA: Urban blacks have been leaving the city for suburbs as they reach the middle class same as what whites did for decades. Traditionally, blacks drive back to the home church in the central city. But the second generation do not, causing churches to leave also. As black churches have been the major institution in the black communities, their leaving created huge void in the life and services especially for the poor. New strategies to serve them are needed.

<Christianity Today, January/09>

USA: A 15-year old youth on a mission trip to Belize last summer noticed, with her father from the hotel roof, barefoot kids were playing soccer on a nearby field with balls made out of paper. Herself a volleyball player, she thought of the unused equipment in her closet and similar stuff of the soccer players. Thus was born Christmas for Belize project to donate good used soccer equipment. It elicited enthusiastic response from schools, churches and even the local professional soccer team. Hundreds of balls, shoes, jerseys, etc were collected to be delivered.

<Dallas Morning News, 12/22/08>

Persecution: According to a monitoring agency, persecution likely will continue to intensify in 2009, partly because, preoccupied with economic crisis, the world will pay less attention to the fate of Christian minorities in nations with totalitarian rule or large elements of radical militants such as Iran, North Korea, Nigeria and India.

<Open Doors USA, www.opendoorsusa.org, 1/2/09>

Central Asia: Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and now Kyrgyzstan have all passed very restrictive religions laws that all but force the evangelical church into hiding. These laws require churches with 200 or more people to register officially, prohibit evangelism outside the church without a permit, restrict what can be taught to youths, and require official approval to cooperate with foreign missionaries, etc.

<Russian Ministries, russian-ministries.org, 1/26/09>

Mongolia: 15 years ago, less than 20 of 6 million people were Christians. A popular Christian radio station and six other stations were set to air the drama 'The Life of Christ' last Christmas throughout the nation.

<Far East Broadcasting, www.febc.org, 12/24/08>

Romania: An evangelist went in recently to preach a series of gospel meetings and found that the people were as hungry for the gospel as he saw the first time in 1980. The church with 3,000 capacity was overflowed and many came to the Lord. But instead of being persecuted for their faith under communism then, they are now dealing with materialism. Due to poor economy many have left for other parts of Europe. The evangelist hopes that they will bring revival to Western Europe as they have experienced revivals, great awakenings and the moving of the Holy Spirit.

<Sammy Tippit Ministries, www.sammytippit.org, 1/28/09>

Middle East: The gospel broadcast in Arabic has generated a growing response via text messaging since early 2007. That year they received text messages from 4,000 different individuals. The number in 2008 was over 6,000. The messages were widely interactive, allowing the agency to disciple believers and encourage non-believers. And it is much more reliable than using the mail.

<Words of Hope, www.woh.org, 12/26/08>

Microfinance: The world financial crisis and credit crunch have forced some agencies to cut back their projected growth for 2009, severely affecting hundreds of thousand people's chance to improve their lives. Though many agencies fund initial start-ups with donations, they also leverage donations to fund loan pools thus tied to the banking systems. But they are somewhat insulated to the economic shock due to funding by donation and extreme high rate of repayment of loans.

<Christianity Today, January/09>

Indonesia: When earth quake tsunami hit Banda Aceh province at 2005 Christmas, all the hospitals were destroyed completely. But even some were repaired or replaced, they did not have nor ever had anyone on site to maintain or repair the equipment. Responding to official's call, one agency help constructed a service and training center. Now the hospitals are able to provide better and faster service than they could ever before. The opportunity to minister to them and living in the community would not have been there before the tsunami. The agency recently has turned over the operation of the center to the provincial health office.

<International Aid, www.internationalaid.org, 12/18/08>

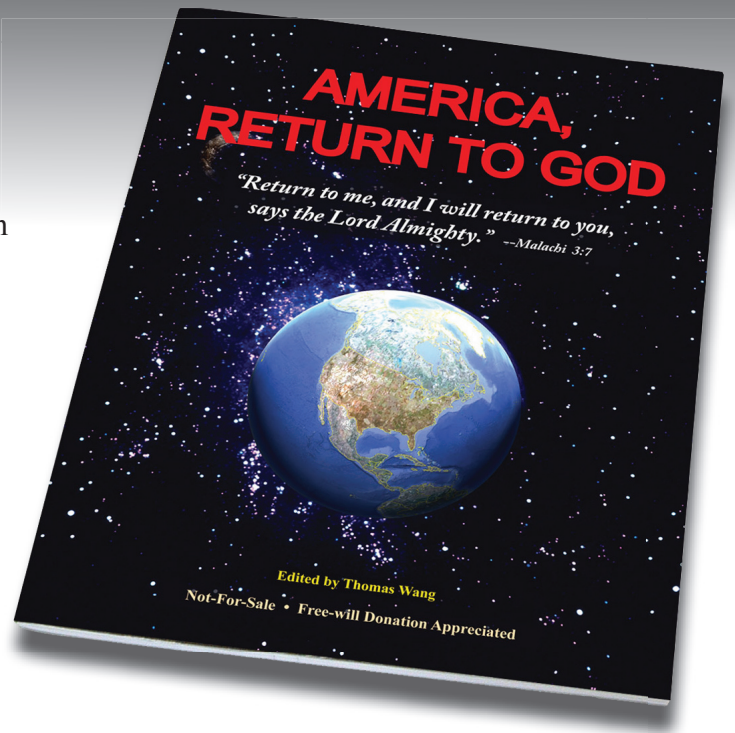
Coming!

America, Return to God 2nd Edition

We praise the Lord for His blessings on the 1st edition of this book. The 500,000 copies have all been distributed. Tremendous responses have been received.

On account of the changing national and cultural life in America, we feel the necessity for the production of a 2nd edition. We have included a few more timely articles by authors greatly used by God today, plus a few articles written by selected young writers who are high school students age 16-18.

Please pray for God's blessings upon this 2nd edition to inspire our great nation to repent and to return to her Founder, our Father in Heaven. Amen!



Upcoming Event

Internet Mission Forum

Date: August 29, 2009 (Saturday)
Time: 9am—9pm
Place: The Home of Christ in Menlo Park
71 Bay Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025

Purposes:

- (1) To promote and advance Internet usage on Global Missions;
- (2) To review present usage of Internet technology among Chinese churches;
- (3) To encourage church leaders on Internet usage for evangelism and global missions;
- (4) To recruit Internet Mission workers

Language: Mandarin

GCCI, 848 Stewart Drive, Suite 200, Sunnyvale, CA 94085.
Tel: 408-636-0030, Fax: 408-636-0033,
Email: imf@gcciusa.org