

GREAT

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The Covenant --- A Seed and A Land

Thomas Wang

Genesis Chapter 17 is a key to the Book of Genesis, probably a key to the entire Bible, and certainly a key to understand the Middle East situation today.

Chapter 17 has 27 verses but the word "Covenant" appeared for 13 times. Indeed, God's covenant makes all the difference in history. In fact, it constitutes what I would call the "Great Divide" between the two lines of Abraham's illustrious sons, Ishmael and Isaac, for the next 4,000 years!

1. The Covenant of A Seed

God said to Abraham, "*And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations It is through ... Isaac that your seed will be reckoned.*" (Gen 17:7, 21:12)

Although Ishmael the son of Abraham through the Egyptian maid Hagar was 13 years older than Isaac, but Isaac the son through Sarah was designated the true heir of Abraham according to God's covenant.

2. The Covenant of A Land

"The Lord said to Abraham Lift up your eyes. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offsprings forever..." (Gen 13:14,15).

God has covenanted that the entire land of Canaan is given to Abraham and his descendants the Israelites. This is a decree which God Himself made 4,000 years ago.

3. An Everlasting Covenant

"I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants." (Gen 17:8)

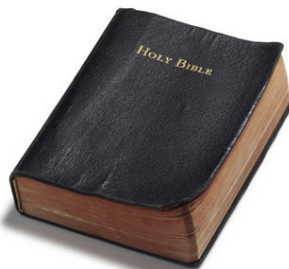
God has given the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants through Isaac as an everlasting possession. Everlasting means forever. God has never changed that decree. The land of Canaan was, is and always will be the land of the Israelites.

Regrettably, this domestic duel which started about 2,000 BC has continued on and off through the ages until the present time. Even though God has fulfilled his promise for the resurrection of Isaac as a nation in 1948, yet Israel's right to exist is still unacceptable to some nations around her.

A temporary peace (or pseudo-peace) will come when a global strong man (the Anti-Christ) appears on the scene. He will forge a false peace and enter into a covenant with Israel only to be broken by himself at the middle of the Tribulation.

The true lasting peace will only occur when our Lord Jesus Christ comes back to earth again as foretold by the angel, "*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.*" (Rev. 11:15)

"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20)



Chinese Mission Mobilization '08



The 4-day Chinese Mission Conference was held on December 26-30, 2008 at Sheraton Gateway Hotel in Burlingame, near San Francisco International Airport. About 200 participants attended this Conference. Although most of the participants were from California, over a dozen were from Houston, Texas and other places.

It was a joint project of eight Chinese mission organizations in California, namely Campus Evangelical Fellowship -- Overseas Campus Magazine, Care Ministry International, China Evangelistic Mission, Chinese Christian Mission, Chinese Ministry of Sowers International, Global Life Enrichment Center, Gospel Operation International for Chinese, and Great Commission Center International.

The theme of the Conference, Come Change the World together, stated clearly of the purpose of this Conference. Speakers, such as Dr. Peter Jones, founder of TruthX-change, Dr. Dudley Woodberry, Dean Emeritus of the School of Inter-Cultural Studies of Fuller Theological Seminary, Dr. Moishe Rosen, Founder of Jews For Jesus, Dr. Enoch Wan, Ph.D. program director of Inter-cultural Studies in Western Seminary and Rev. Luke Zhang, Director of Chinese Ministries of Sowers International, led the participants to survey the present situation and the gospel need of the Post-Christian World, Muslim World, Jewish World, Dispersed People as well as China. Participants were encouraged to come out of the closet to look at the whole world, to obey Christ's Great Commission, and to step out their comfort zone so that they can change the world with the gospel.

Dr. Che-Bin Tan, retired President of China Evangelical Seminary of Taiwan and a well-known New Testament scholar, gave Bible Expositions from the Book of Acts in the mornings under the title of Spiritual Renewal and Missions. And Dr. Thomas Wang, President Emeritus of Great Commission Center International, Dr. Chan Fong, Senior Pastor of Chinese Christian Grace Church in Singapore, and Dr. Patrick Fung, General Director of OMF gave messages on how to prepare ourselves to counter-act the

challenges in our generation.

One of the uniqueness of this Conference is to encourage participants to interact with speakers and to take part in formulating mobilization strategies, not only in the eight workshops conducted in the afternoons, but also in the questions and answers time during the plenary session as well as the Mobilization Strategy Discussion session in the last afternoon.

Participants were also benefited from the testimonies of the three missionaries, Rev. Liu Yao-Kwong, Rev. Kuong-Sii Wong and Mrs. Margaret Fine, who worked among ethnic Chinese and minority groups in Myanmar, Muslim Africans, and Chinese college students in Germany. They shared their struggles, failures, sweet memories, and God's blessings upon them and their families.

At the closing session, Dr. Cyrus Lam, General Director of Gospel Operation International for Chinese encouraged all participants to have one heart, one mind, one commitment, one hope and to sense the urgency of changing the world with the gospel by mobilizing Christians to breakthrough our self-limitation.

The 8 co-sponsoring organizations have decided to have this Chinese Mission Mobilization Conference every three years and will be held in northern and southern California alternatively. They may invite more Chinese mission organizations to participate. The next Conference will be held in 2011 in southern California. Rev. Jonathan Chiu of Care Ministries

International has been elected as the Chairman of the Planning Committee.



Some of the senior participants prayed for the conference.

Be a Missionary while young!

By Kai-yam Cheung Teng

1. The Problem of Aging

Population aging has become a global problem. This is also true with Christian church members, seminary students, as well as missionaries. Many sociological factors contributed to this phenomenon in the post-modern, urbanized societies of ours; they include late marriage and late child birth, or no marriage and no child birth at all.

2. Aging Missionaries

With missionaries, however, there is another factor that have contributed to their “delay” in being sent to the mission fields, especially in cross-cultural fields. The delay is caused not only by recruitment and training but also by perceptions and policies.

Since 1980's, the perception of “maturity age” has increased, following the society's realization of the need of more education and experience. Thus, when young people in the church want to participate in service, the reaction is commonly that they are still immature and therefore in need of college education, work experience, seminary training, pasturing experience, marriage, application to missionary organizations and financial support, plus preparatory training. By the time they arrive at their respective mission fields, they are possibly about 34 years old already. In addition, they need to adapt to the local living condition and to learn a different language and culture. Also, those who were in the beginning willing to continue in mission service may sometimes decide not to stay, because the problems associated with children's education. Thus the hurdles get higher with late beginner.

I agree with the suggestion to support young people to participate in missionary work early. We should try our best to simplify the sending process and minimize the hurdles. Too often we wanted to “protect” our young people from failures. Actually, we may be afraid of their getting things ruined. We forget that our own quasi-maturity has come

from learning opportunities provided by God, as well as people around us when we were young. If this being the case, why do we deprive the learning opportunity of the young today?

3. Who says Young People cannot achieve Great Things?

Many people in the Bible, who were greatly used by God, were young; they include Joseph, Samuel, David, Daniel in the Old Testament, and John, Paul, Timothy in the New.

Many of the Western missionaries, whom we often heard about, began their life-long and extremely difficult cross-cultural ministries work in their twenties. They learned from failures, grew in difficulties, persisted in spiritual warfare, and by God's grace sent light to the peoples in darkness. In 1807, Robert Morrison arrived at Guangzhou at the age of 25 and, after spreading the gospel in China for 27 years, he died there. In 1841, David Livingstone got to Africa when he was 28; he served as a missionary for 32 years and died there when he was 60. In 1854, the 22-year-old James Hudson Taylor arrived at Shanghai, did missionary work in China for 51 years, and died there at 73. In 1890, the 23-year-old Samuel Zwemer began his nearly-40-year mission work among the Muslim; he was called The Apostle to Islam. In 1897, the 24-year-old R. A. Jaffray went to Shandong province of China and devoted himself to China for 47 years, and died in a Japanese concentration camp in Indonesia at the age of 72. In 1907, the 23-year-old E. Stanley Jones arrived at India; he preached the gospel among the intellectuals with great achievement. These are some examples, showing that the earlier to participate in mission work the better in adapting to a new environment, and thus the more likely to accomplish profound work in the mission field.

4. Missionary Training among College Students

In 1885, seven students at Cambridge University, United Kingdom, committed themselves to overseas mission and went to China. Their exemplary action induced in 1886 the establishment of Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions (SVM). For over half of a century, this movement stimulated some 25,000 students, mostly from North America, to participate in foreign missions, and among whom more than 30% went to China and 20% to India. One of the Cambridge seven, Charles Thomas Studd, established Worldwide Evangelization Crusade (WEC) in 1913. One of the leaders of the American student volunteers, John R. Mott, later became the chairman of the Edinburgh Mission Conference in 1910 and devoted his life to worldwide missionary work. These are just a few examples, showing that the worldwide missionary movement that began in the West in early 20th century was led by some relatively young, energetic, and mission-minded college students/Christians.

Today we should continue to cultivate college students/
(Continued on P-7.)



Participants enjoyed fellowship with speakers and missionaries.

*Through Five Generations,
crossing Four Continents
and Three Dynasties,
lasting Two Centuries,
for only One Mission - -*

***To Enter the World
by Faith;
To Transform Lives
by Love.***



Hudson Taylor, C. T. Studd
and the Cambridge Seven,

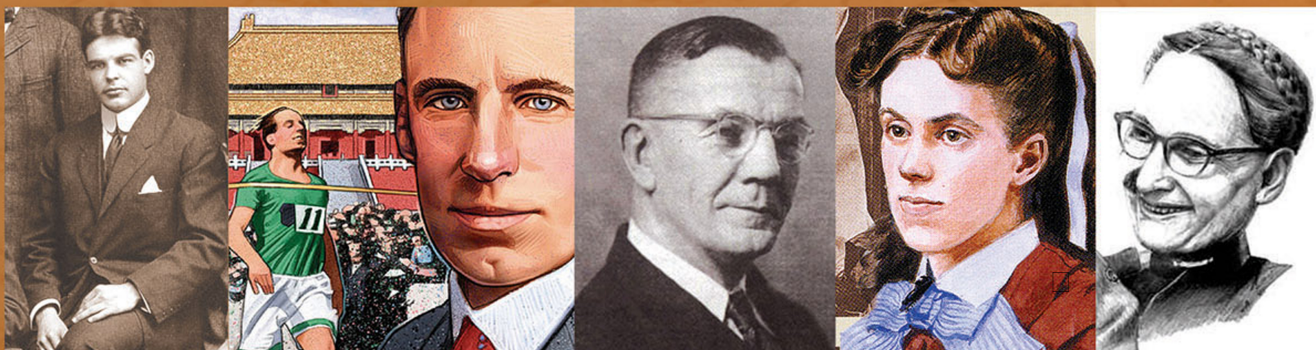
Ever since the early 1950s, the advancement of secular cultural influence has caused the church to slowly but steadily withdraw from public cultural arena; noticeably from Hollywood (the modern life-style setter) and from the educational elitist institutions (the mind/philosophy setters). Christians and their leaders retreated and settled comfortably behind church and seminary walls, allowing the Adversary to have a free hand to the world outside. This retreat has proven to be one of the greatest blunders in modern church history.

A new communication organization, Love In China Communications Inc. is formed recently to reclaim the entertainment arena for the gospel. They plan to produce a series of 7 cinema-standard films depicting the life legacies of prominent missionaries to China, namely James Hudson Taylor, the Cambridge Seven, William Borden, Lottie Moon, Eric Liddell, Gladys Aylward, and M.S. Bates. First in the list of production is, The Flying Man – Eric Liddell.

The life of Eric Liddell has been an inspiration to millions in the Western world, thanks to the film, Chariots of Fire, which recaptured the first part of Eric's life. "The Flying Man" will extend that impact, according to Mr. Ziyin Wang, CEO of Love In China Communications, by completing the untold story of Eric. The screenplay has already been written, and the team plans to begin shooting in the fall of 2009, aiming for a release date in latter part of 2010.

Eric Liddell has been honored in various ways in China. He is esteemed as a hero both in sports (the

COMING! 7 UNPRECED



William Borden, Lottie Moon, Eric Liddell, Gladys Aylward, M. S. Bates... Epic names, classic legends.

first person born in China won an Olympic medal) and in life (his sacrifice love for the Chinese people). He is admired as a role model of excellent character. In the last 20 years, the Chinese government has approved the following projects in honoring Eric.

1. The former residence of Eric Liddell in Tianjin is protected as a building of historical significance.
2. At the site of the Weih sien Internment Camp, a stone monument was erected in Eric's honor.
3. Many TV networks in China have produced documentaries of his life.
4. A 24-hour movie channel in China purchased the rights of "Chariots of Fire" in 1999 and has shown the film repeatedly. The audience has been estimated at 850 million.
5. The Chinese edition of "Running the Race" by John Keddie has been published and distributed throughout China.

According to the filmmakers, they will employ a story-telling approach that will allow Eric's life to speak for itself. Ziyin Wang expects The Flying Man will influence the audiences, as it deals with relevant issues of sport and world peace and portrays the virtues of commitment, devotion and forgiveness.

For more details, please contact Mr. Ziyin Wang, Love In China Communications, 701 S. Atlantic Blvd., #268A, Monterey Park, CA 91754, U.S.A. Tel: 626-308-3530 ext 108, Fax: 626-308-3534, Email: loveinchinacommunications@gmail.com.

MENTED MISSION FILMS!

World Mission News

Compiled by Samuel C. Y. Ling

North Korea: The United States removed it from the list of state sponsors of terrorism last October. But one Christian agency still lists it as the world's worst religious persecutor. Of the estimated 468,000 Christians there 10,600 are martyred each year. Some observers are doubtful about the effect of pulling the country off the terrorism list, and think that the regime will feel emboldened, more accepted and go further in its abuse of Christians and other dissidents.

<Christianity Today, December/08>

South Korea: In Busan a woman riding in a taxi commented that the song on the radio was "Amazing." The taxi driver quickly responded that the music at his church is similar and invited her to visit his church. For 25 years, The Missionary Taxi Club members now 450 strong have devoted themselves to play FEBC radio broadcast around the clock in their taxi. This has provided an effective way in witnessing to their customers.

<Far East Broadcasting, www.febc.org, 11/7/08>

USA: At least 210 using Greek letter named Christian organizations exist on campuses. They have become more common in recent years for young evangelicals seeking ways to live out their faith, and parents looking for a safe haven from possible drunken daze in college. Accountability groups and Bible study groups minister to the students at soup kitchens, the homeless people and the poor in the communities.

<Dallas Morning News, 11/9/08>

China: Of the 6 million populations in Hubei province, 150,000 are Christians. Churches are growing but seriously lack trained ministers especially in the rural areas which making them susceptible to heresies and cults.

<Far East Broadcasting, www.febchk.org, February/08>

Short Term Mission: Some mission agencies especially those in the medical field are raising their standards for participants. The purpose is for them to achieve maximum amount of work in a short period of time and leaving long-term impact.

<CURE International, helpcurenow.org, 11/28/08>

France: The number of Muslims has risen exponentially over the past 30 years which is now peaking at 5-6 million, while evangelical Christians remains around 500,000. Younger generations are beginning to question the traditions of their Muslim parents but have not been introduced to Jesus as an alternative. Mission leaders feel that the field is ready for harvest and ask for more missionaries.

<International Mission Board, imb.org, 11/13/08>

Wall Street: As the financial crisis deepens, the atten-

dance at lunchtime sermons of a church on Wall Street increases, proving the gospel truth that "we cannot put our faith in money." An agency is developing a New Testament containing 30 daily devotionals about money management helping people through biblical principles behind financial responsibility.

<International Mission Board, imb.org, 10/7/08>

Chile: An agency is helping to create jobs for a small village there. Known as the Mapuche Indians, the villagers are poor and assumed by outsiders as unmotivated and unproductive. In fact, they are hard workers simply lacking resources. The agency has helped them to buy sugar and other ingredients to make and sell jam from fruits on existing fruit trees in every household. Prompted by villagers, plans are under way to set up carpentry shops making furniture utilizing the lumber available.

<Bright Hope International, www.brighthope.org, 11/13/08>

United Nations: Mission groups are concerned about the Anti-Blasphemy resolution calling it to be putting a "chilling effect" on Christian work and outreach around the world. Despite the good intentions, it often emboldens militant Islamists to use it as a club against free religious speech and Christian minority for their perceived offense of "blasphemy."

<Open Doors USA, www.opendoorsusa.org, 10/9/08>

Thailand: An agency has used effectively ads for Bible correspondence courses in newspapers. In 2007, 500 people enrolled resulted in 36 decisions for Christ. As of August 2008, 404 have enrolled with 41 decisions. The political unrest caused more people to seek answers outside of their traditional religions.

<AMG International, www.amginternational.org, 11/18/08>

Russia: An agency was invited by the Ministry of Social Affairs to visit a juvenile rehab center in a predominantly Muslim area just north of the border with Georgia. There they distributed 100 backpacks of Blessing containing school supplies, personal hygiene items and a Bible. Later, they entered South Ossetia, the area of earlier conflict between the nations, and distributed 1,000 more packs in schools and along the streets.

<Russian Ministries, russian-ministries.org, 10/2/08>

Arabic Bible: An agency is working on CD-ROM for outreach to the 280 million people who use some form of Arabic as their first language. This will be especially useful in Islamic countries where it will be much less conspicuous than carrying a Bible.

<World Bible Translation Center, wbtc.org, 11/11/08>

Found

Tom Howard

*You came to me and you gave me life
A serenity I've never known
You forgave my wrongs, I've found Love's song
And found my way back home, and found my way back home.*

*You came to me and you gave me life
You've given so much for me
I have found you so and let all else go
And found my way back home, and found my way back home.*

*I needed you so but couldn't let go
The answers I thought were mine
I needed you so but couldn't let go
Was Blind and now am thine*

*You came to me and you gave me life
A serenity I've never known
I have found you so and let all else go
And found my way back home, and found my way back home*

(Continued from P-3)

Christians to become precious missionary candidates. In North America, InterVarsity Fellowship has been sponsoring a 5-day Urbana Conference every 3 years, specifically to encourage college students in North America to participate in mission. So far more than 212,000 have accepted the challenge. In Seoul, Korea, a Global Consultation on World Evangelization (GCOWE) was held during May 17-25, 1995. One of the sessions, called Korean Students Mission 2000, was held at Seoul Olympic Stadium and was attended by about 70,000 students, many vowed to participate in mission work; some of them took a one-year leave from their university studies. It is my hope that one day a sufficient number of campus missionaries will spread to all 8,000 major university campuses in the world.

Conclusion

To raise a young missionary requires more than God's calling, it takes the cooperation and the support of the whole family plus the whole church. Christian families should reflect on how to conduct Christian education at home. Churches should include mission education in Sunday schools, and conduct mission conferences and camps to instill mission knowledge and motivate participation.

Let the young people experience short-term mission work first; this will induce motivation and interest. Then let's help them to understand, to reflect and to consolidate what they have learned by experience. In the life-long process of learning, we should let them serve in the frontline and let them to be properly equipped at different stages. Don't "delay" their service until they are middle-aged!

(Digested and Translated from Chinese by Chi-Yu King)

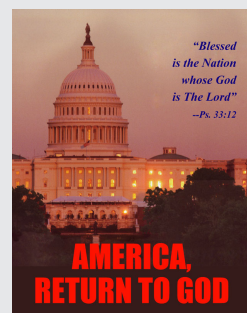


2009 Ministry Plan

A. Global Mission

1. Post-Christian Countries

- USA – in cooperation with American Return to God Prayer Movement
- Canada – in cooperation with Canadian churches and organizations
- United Kingdom and European Countries – in cooperation with local churches



2. China

- Continue theological training
- Assist local Mission Schools

3. Mission to the Jews

- Continue the momentum in USA
- Promote the awareness of Mission to the Jews in other regions

4. Middle East

- Revisit countries in the Persian Gulf
- Cooperate with non-Chinese mission agencies



B. Mission Education

- Complete World Mission Course (2)
– Student Handbook and Teachers' Manual
- Complete lecture DVDs for World Mission Course (1) and (2)
- Conduct World Mission Course Teachers' Seminars

C. Mission Publications

- Publish a booklet on *Re-evangelization of Post-Christian Countries*
- Finish 1/3 of the translation of *Evangelical Dictionary of World Mission*
- Strengthen the global view of the *Great Commission Bi-monthly*
- Up-grade the *Great Commission News* to target English-speaking Chinese
- Publish *Europe, Return to God* (similar as *America, Return To God*), in cooperation with organizations in Europe.



D. Develop a Mission Resource Center

- Internet Ministries
- Develop a Mission Research Library

