

# How to Witness to the Jewish People

Tuvya Zaretsky

I am a physical descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – an ethnic Jew. However, I am also a Jew that is born again by faith in Jesus my Savior. I have served as a missionary to my own Jewish people for over 37 years.

## Outline

I will describe the difficult task of bringing the gospel to the Jewish people. Jewish scholars have developed strong objections to the gospel of Christ based on their view of Christian history and theology. Jewish resistance to the gospel discourages many Christians. They feel inadequate to this difficult task.

However, there is no other hope of eternal life for the Jewish people. The gospel message is unique, and the only hope of salvation for any people, including my Jewish people.

So, I want to encourage you that God is able to accomplish that task. He only asks us to be available.

## The Difficult Task

The first challenge to Jewish evangelism is a resistance to the Gospel by Jewish people. Many historic atrocities against the Jewish people have been attributed to Christians. European



*Dr. Tuvya Zaretsky with interpreter Rev. Daniel Lai.*

Christians perpetrated almost all of them.

During the Crusades, Jews were being slaughtered across Europe and in the Holy Land murdered for being descended from the Jews who asked Pontius Pilot to crucify Jesus.

In 1492, hundreds of thousands of Jews were murdered, imprisoned or deported during the Spanish Inquisition. This was seen by the Jews as a Christian holy war against them.

In 1543, Martin Luther wrote an angry pamphlet titled, "On the Jews and Their Lies." The great Christian reformer recommended that Jews be deprived of money, civil rights, education and all religious training in their synagogues hoping such imposed restrictions would compel the Jews to come to Christians for help. And if the Jews resisted the Gospel with rabbinic teachings they either be expelled from Germany or killed.

As I grew up I learned these facts from my parents and in synagogue, and believed that all Christians hated Jews. The alleged evidence of Christian anti-Semitism was the Holocaust – systematic murder of 6 million of my people, in Christian Europe. Thus my people are very

guarded against the Gospel.

The rabbis have also erected theological barriers against the Gospel. For example, the name of the Messiah is given in Matthew 1:21 in English translated from the Greek as, “and you shall call His name Jesus.” In the original Hebrew language His name is “Yeshua,” literally meaning “Savior.” The rabbis refuse to call Him “Savior,” or “Yeshua.” So, for 2,000 years, they have referred to Him by a corrupted form of His name “Yeshu.” It is actually a curse on His name and memory.

The second challenge is the so called the Great Omission. Since the Jewish community strongly resists the gospel, Christians in North America and Europe have responded by ignoring Jewish missions. I am glad to note that Asian Christians do not bear the same Christian history of Jewish persecution in the name of Jesus as Christians in Europe.

And the third challenge is that some European and North American Christians prefer mercy missions and social justice above direct evangelism. Some Christians in the West believe that seeking political peace between Palestinians and Israeli Jews is all they can do. Yes, Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers.” However, social justice does not accomplish conversion of the soul. True peace will only come from changed hearts by the saving grace through faith in the Prince of Peace.

We are already witnessing a spiritual change among Palestinians and Jews in Israel. There is a growing number of Jesus-believing Israeli Jews and Arabs. They worship and witness together there.

From May 19, Pentecost, through June 18, my Jews for Jesus colleagues and I have been working in a region just north of Tel Aviv on an outreach, Behold Your God – Israel lifting up the name of Yeshua. So far we have collected contact information from more than 1,500 Jews and Arabs who want to read the New Testament Scriptures in their own languages; Hebrew, Russian, Amharic, Spanish, English and Arabic. Direct Jewish evangelism may be difficult, yet the Lord

is still making His disciples even today.

This is the fifth in the series of intensive outreach campaigns that Jews for Jesus is conducting in the State of Israel. We hand out literature. They stop to talk with us and then ask for spiritual information. We hold up banners on major boulevards that proclaim the true name of Yeshua – the Savior. The largest response has come from Israelis who call the national phone number on the banners. They receive a free New Testament if they call. More than 800 contacts have come in just from the banners.

Seven more evangelism campaigns are planned during the next few years. Some of you may want to serve as volunteers on a future campaign in the State of Israel. We also welcome churches that want to partner with us. If you are interested in knowing more about outreaches in Israel or volunteering on a future campaign, visit our website: [jewsforjesus.org](http://jewsforjesus.org).

## **God’s Power for the Task**

Where do we get the spiritual power for witnessing to Jewish people? Jesus told His disciples, “...but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The word “witness” in Greek is *marturayah*, where the English word for “martyr” comes from. Jesus said, “You shall be my witnesses.” He called on every believer to be a living witness to the good news about Jesus. That is the best and the hardest kind of witness. It takes great faith, patience, love and consistency.

Jewish opposition to the gospel can be fierce. But in my 37 years of ministry, Jewish people have never killed one of our missionaries in the course of resisting the gospel. Jews would consider that a horrible tragedy. We must make ourselves available to God as witnesses of His love and power.

## **Practical Things to Do**

**First, be available.** Be prepared to serve God. Say, with the Prophet Isaiah, “Hineni” in

Hebrew – “Here am I, Lord. Send me.” God may want you to pray for the salvation of Jewish people. He might want you to pray for those who will witness directly to Jewish people. So, first of all be available to the Lord.

You are among the nations that God wants to use as a witness. Please, make my Jewish people jealous. You know the love of God that you experience in Christ. Make the Jewish people jealous as you give witness to your freedom from the guilt of sin. Make them long for your confidence in the word of God. Make them jealous that you found the Jewish Messiah who is the only hope of salvation for all people.

**Second, be confident in the gospel.** There is no other hope of eternal life for Jewish people, or for any people, other than through the gospel. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Him.

Many Jewish people have told me by saying, “I will never believe in Jesus like you.” Mark Resnick said that to me in 1998. His parents were Holocaust survivors who accused Christians of murdering Jews in Europe. Mark’s angry comment was the start of a conversation that lasted more than a year and a half. The Spirit of God worked on Mark Resnick as he read the Scriptures. Eventually, he came to believe in Jesus. Ten months later he died of stomach cancer. Mark asked me to be a witness to his unsaved family. They heard the gospel at his funeral. Jewish people need to hear a confident witness of the gospel truth. The task may be difficult, but Jews will believe in Jesus.

**Third, be patient for God’s timing.** We have learned to wait for the Lord to open the door for a witness. In Israel, the Orthodox Jewish community has pressured radio and television stations to reject our evangelistic advertisements. In spite of every effort to keep us from proclaiming the gospel, more than 8,000 people have given us their names, addresses, telephone numbers and email contact information. We have given them evangelistic literature, Bible portions and whole New Testaments. Since 2008, over 157 Jews and Arabs have come to faith in Jesus Christ.

So, be confident, be available and be patient. **Last, be prayerful.** When you can’t talk to Jewish people about Jesus - talk to Jesus about the Jewish people. I have prayed for an opportunity to minister where God has opened the door of ministry. I prayed for Jeff Harmon for three years. This brilliant Jewish man became close friends with a Christian girl. For two years, she tried to tell him about Jesus without success. I finally met with him during the past year to study the Bible. Two months ago, during the Jewish Feast of Passover, Jeff became a follower of Jesus Christ. On Monday of this week we met for the third in a series of ten discipleship lessons. He is growing strong in Christ.

Jewish people are coming to faith in Jesus. This may be a difficult mission field, but God is adequate for the task. We need to be living witnesses who can tell Jewish people about Jesus. So, be confident in the gospel. Be available to God. Be patient for the Lord to open the door of opportunity for witness. And be prayerful for the salvation of the Jewish people and those who minister the gospel to them.

There is a blessing on being a witness to the Jewish people. Hudson Taylor, founder of the China Inland Mission, used to begin each New Year by sending a check to the Hebrew Christian Testimony to Israel based in London. He wrote on it “to the Jew first.” David Baron, the Jewish Christian leader of the mission would always respond to the gift by sending his personal check to the China Inland Mission. He would always add the annotation, “...and also to the Gentile.”





# 2010 MISSION TO THE JEWS CONFERENCE IN MACAO

The Great Commission Center International, in cooperation with The Hong Kong and Macao Evangelical Church Association, conducted the “2010 Mission to the Jews Conference” on June 10-11, 2010 in Macao.

The event took place at the Macao Evangelical Church with co-sponsorship of Jireh Foundation, Macao Church Association and Macao Bible Institute.

“The Past, Present and Future of the Jewish People” was the theme of the main speaker Dr. Tuvya Zaretsky, Director of Staff Training and Development of Jews for Jesus and member of LCWE Jewish Ministry Track. Other speakers included Dr. Sharon Chan, President of GCCI, and The Rev. Dr. Thomas Wang, President Emeritus of GCCI.

The conference scheduled the two morning sessions of the first day primarily for pastoral staff and seminary students when Dr. Zaretsky spoke on “Salvation is from the Jews” and

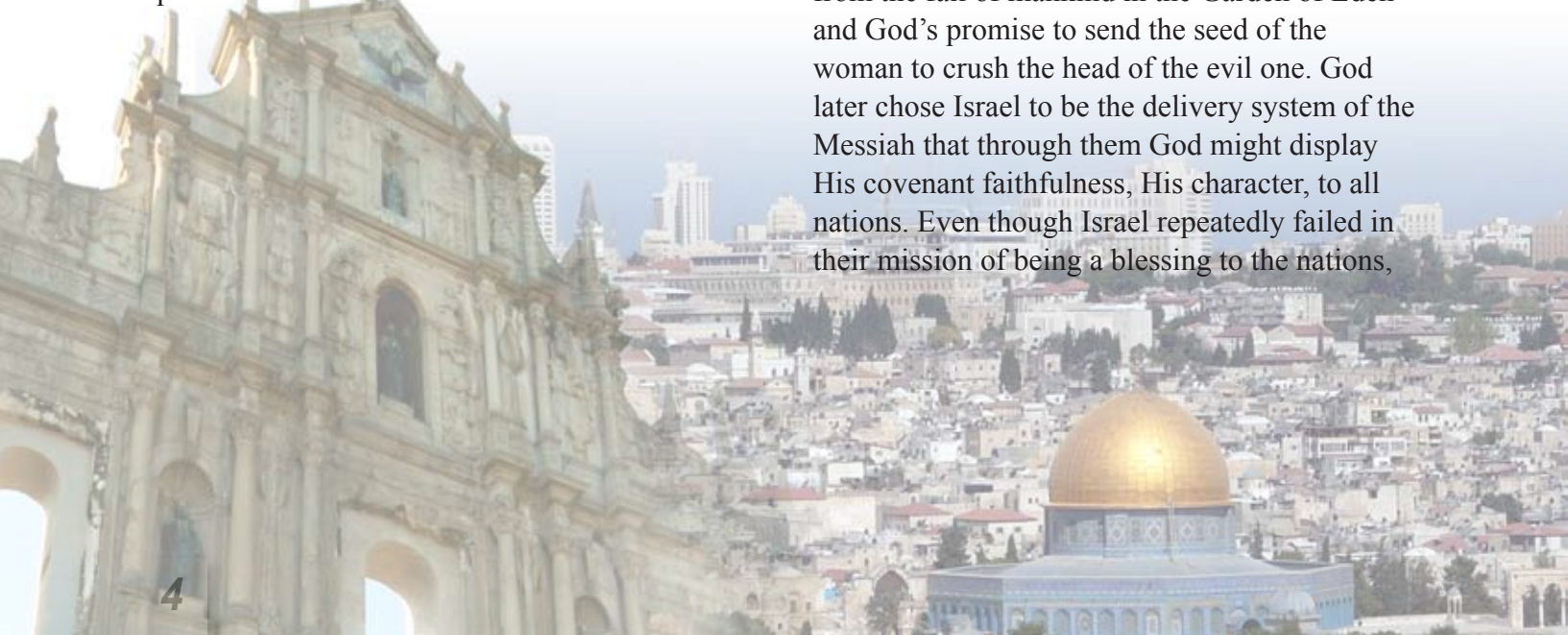


“Israel – God’s Blessings and Curses.” The two evening sessions were open to the public. Dr. Zaretsky spoke on “Israel at the End Times,” and “How to Witness to the Jewish

People.” On the second day, Dr. Chan spoke on “The Responsibility of the Chinese Church towards the Jewish People” at the first session and Rev. Dr. Wang concluded the Conference and spoke on “From Tianshan to Mt. Zion” that evening.

The event was well received by Christians in Macao. About 80 came to the sessions for pastoral staff and seminary students, and over 400 attended the open sessions, mostly young people, overflowing the auditorium. When Rev. Dr. Wang challenged the audience to serve the Lord, many stood to respond. Nine dedicated their lives for full-time service.

In his first two sessions, Dr. Zaretsky traced from the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden and God’s promise to send the seed of the woman to crush the head of the evil one. God later chose Israel to be the delivery system of the Messiah that through them God might display His covenant faithfulness, His character, to all nations. Even though Israel repeatedly failed in their mission of being a blessing to the nations,







*Rev. Thomas Wang, Rev. Lam Yam-Man and Rev. Lam Chung-Kong prayed for those who dedicated for full-time service.*

God displayed His character by being faithful to His covenant relationship with Israel. Thus, God also has shown His faithful character to other nations. After Jesus was born to an Israeli woman, His disciples and apostles spread the good news of salvation to all nations, to the Jews first and also to the gentiles.

Dr. Zaretsky spoke on the role of the Jewish people as God's time clock. How at the end time, at Jesus' second coming, there will be an ingathering of the Jewish people. Jews as a people will realize that Jesus is the true Messiah and the only true Savior. We can participate in the moving of God's time clock by bringing the gospel to the nations and to the Jewish people.

Finally, Dr. Zaretsky reiterated the resistance of the Jewish people to the gospel and gave some practical suggestions to approach the difficult task of being a witness to them. He counseled the participants to be available, to be confident in the gospel, the participants be patient for God's timing, and to be prayerful. There is a blessing for being a witness to the Jewish people as God promised to bless those who bless them.



*Dr. Sharon Chan*

In the session on "The Responsibility of the Chinese Church towards the Jewish People," Dr. Sharon Chan emphasized God's love of the Jewish people and our debt to them as the first conveyers of the gospel to the gentiles. She also laid out the similarities in history, culture and ethnic characters between the Chinese and the Jewish peoples. Many Jewish people are friendly to the Chinese and grateful for accepting many of them during the Holocaust over half of a century ago. She urged the Chinese to make friends with the Jewish people, interact with them, witness to them and pray for them.

## Coming Event

***The Second Internet Mission Forum (in Mandarin) will be held in San Diego, CA on August 28, 2010***

日期: 2010年8月28日星期六

時間: 上午九時至晚上八時

會場: 聖地亞哥主恩堂 (Chinese Bible Church of San Diego)

12335 World Trade Drive, San Diego, CA 92128

論壇內容包括:

開幕

開幕講座: 網絡宣教最新趨向與挑戰

詳情請到網絡宣教論壇網址查詢:

[www.InternetMissionForum.org](http://www.InternetMissionForum.org)

工作坊:

- 牧者推動坊: 教會如何參與網絡宣教

- 如何善用網絡平台

- 網站企劃和經營

- 如何成為網絡宣教師

大會總結: 勉勵與展望

**2010 第二屆網絡宣教論壇**

宣教在網絡

推動網絡宣教事工 · 造就網絡宣教師

合辦單位:

海外校園, 耶穌中心, 大使會中心, 基督徒百科網

協辦單位:

聖地亞哥主恩堂, 基督之家第六家, JGospel, 網絡基督使團, CCNTV, 新華人, 天路事工,

遠東廣播公司, 神州傳播協會

# A Declaration of The Fourth International Consultation of the Back to Jerusalem Movement, BJM IV

June 1-4, 2010, Jerusalem

In June 2010, despite challenges and difficulties, about 100 co-workers from mainland China and other countries, including many overseas Chinese, attended the Fourth International Consultation of the Back to Jerusalem Movement (BJM IV). This timely Consultation was held in Jerusalem about 200 years after the arrival of Robert Morrison in China and 100 years after the 1910 Edinburgh Missionary Conference. Participants in this Consultation affirmed their Evangelical beliefs and the Lausanne Covenant and, through much prayer, sharing and discussion, arrived at the following common understandings with regard to the BJM:

1. **We firmly believe** that it is God's promise and the undeniable mission of the Church to share the good news with all nations in the end times. As God has prophesied through the prophet Isaiah: "it is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth" (Isa. 49:6).

2. **We firmly believe** that God has blessed the Chinese people with increasing global status and influence "for such a time as this" (Esth. 4:14). Therefore, we believe that "spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth" is also the responsibility of the global Chinese church. Following Christ's example, with a humble and diligent attitude, we should wisely use the present opportunities to serve the peoples of all nations.

3. **We firmly believe** that Chinese believers should repay the gospel debt to the descendants of both Ishmael and Isaac and other unreached people groups residing along the Silk Road so that they will pattern after the faith of Abraham and receive the gospel of justification by faith. For centuries, the Silk Road, both the land and the sea routes, has served as the link between the East and the West through which Chinese goods were brought to the West. Likewise, Christianity, Buddhism and Islam were spread to China by means of the same routes. We pray that these routes will now become the "Gospel Highway".

4. **We firmly believe** that we need to proclaim the gospel of peace. We encourage all people to first be reconciled with God (2 Cor. 5:18-20), so that reconciliation between individuals and people groups, especially descendants of both Ishmael and Isaac, will be possible. Only then, will those who have been living in conflict or abusive situations find genuine peace in God. Thus, we should become Christ's peacemaking ambassadors.

5. **We firmly believe** that as we bring the gospel to Muslims, Jews and other unreached people groups the spiritual struggle will become more intense, probably similar to what the apostle Paul has encountered (Phil. 1:30). Therefore, we need to train ourselves to be godly (1 Tim 4:7), "to put on the full armour of God" (Eph. 6:10-12), "to be alert and to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Eph. 6:18).

6. **We firmly believe** that Chinese churches in China and overseas should place high priority on sharing the gospel with Muslims and other numerous unreached people groups in China. Before His ascension into heaven, Jesus Christ commanded His disciples not only to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth, but also to their neighbouring people groups (Acts 1:8). Therefore, as the global Chinese church participates in global mission, it should also focus on the unreached people groups within China.

7. **We firmly believe** that collaborative partnership among all members of the global church is essential to the fulfillment of the Back to Jerusalem vision and that such collaboration will bring about the maximum glory to God. Thus, we will partner with like-minded churches and mission agencies to share the BJM vision and to recruit, train and send mission workers. We will also support each other in the mission field.

We praise God for His guidance and protection for this Consultation. Following the will of God, we will continue to advance the Kingdom through the vision of Back to Jerusalem Movement.

To God be the glory, Amen!





**Cuba:** Since 2002 an agency has worked with nationals. At the time, there were 25 churches and 25 pastors in the country. Today, 55 churches and 50 pastors in eight provinces influence over 5,000 people. By 2013, they want to see 70 churches.

<AMG International, [www.amginternational.org](http://www.amginternational.org), 5/28/10>

**Video Bible for the Deaf:** There are sign language Bibles for the deaf, but illiteracy in deaf community is even higher than for the hearing. Of 200+ sign languages in the world, only the American sign language has the New Testament in video translation. One translation agency has partnered with a deaf outreach agency to start a daunting work on video Bibles of another sign language. It is anticipated to take at least a decade.

<Wycliffe Associates, [www.wycliffe.org](http://www.wycliffe.org), 5/12/10>

**4-14 Window:** Recent statistics shows that kid 16-20 are most resistant to the gospel. So we need to reach them at an earlier age. An agency is targeting the so-call 4-14 Window by training children in evangelism. They start in 12 African nations to train 60,000 adult trainers who, in turn, will train 2 million children. Their goal is to reach 2,920,000 children this year.

<OneHope, [www.onehope.net](http://www.onehope.net), 4/28/10>

**Iran:** Two Christian women arrested by security forces in March 2009 for anti-state activity and "taking part in illegal gatherings" due to participating in house church activities remain in jail. Anti-state charges were later dropped. They are still facing propagation of Christian faith and apostasy charges. Though weak and suffering various illnesses and reportedly subjected to psychological abuse, they determined to remain a witness for Christ. Many believers are encouraged by them.

<Voice of the Martyrs, [www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com), 4/19/10>

**Asia:** Last year, an agency's radio program expanded to reach 110 languages to many of the areas missionaries have never been welcome. But more than a million listeners wrote to them. Some were India's upper class who could listen in their own home when social pressure preventing them from going to church. Many were in rural villages difficult to reach and radio still being the only link to outside information. When finally reaching such a village, missionaries found villagers eager to listen. A small church is now thriving there.

<Gospel For Asia Update, [www.gfa.org](http://www.gfa.org), 6/2/10>

**Rwanda:** Among sub Saharan African nations, this one has the most switching within Christianity. Percentage of current Catholics (54%) is 12 points lower than that raised Catholic. Protestant percentage is 12% higher.

<Christianity Today, June/10>

**Short-term mission:** A trend toward more domestic short-term trips might be underway. Overseas trips are down by 15% since 2008 with fewer and smaller teams. One agency said volunteer participation in its overseas trips shrink from 57% in 2005 to 26% in 2009. It expects number to rebound in 2010 due to trips to Haiti. Impact of 9/11, Hurricane Katrina, Mexican drug violence, and the Great Recession all play a role. Yet some agencies saw increases thanks to retiring baby boomers.

<Christianity Today, June/10>

**Volunteerism:** Volunteers enabled an agency in prison ministry to operate on a budget one-third of what would otherwise be required. 5,000+ of them served 250,000 hours in 2009. Most served as Bible instructors or general help in distribution centers across the globe.

<Crossroad Bible Institute, [www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org](http://www.crossroadbibleinstitute.org), 4/22/10>

**China:** 2 years after the Sichuan earthquake with 69,000 death, nearly 18,000 still are missing. An agency supported 1,500 Chinese believers' humanitarian efforts within days of the quake and will fund 400 for next year. The commitment of believers on the ground resulted in 15,000 people coming to Christ the first year and 10,000 more the second year. 430+ churches have been planted. They care for the people, help build houses and find business opportunities.

<WorldServe Ministries, [www.worldserveusa.org](http://www.worldserveusa.org), 5/12/10>

**Haiti:** 3 months after the quake, the road to recovery seems so daunting. Much is due to poor infrastructure there before the quake. They have no food or medical care beyond what's brought in. A spiritual people, they are turning away from Satan's lies previously believed, particularly in the form of voodoo and other superstitions, and open to hear the gospel. Many have believed in Christ.

<Baptist Haiti Mission, [www.bhm.org](http://www.bhm.org), 4/16/10>

**Burkina Faso:** An agency recently partnered with a gospel team that has planted churches in 25 villages in the last 8 years to start a clean water ministry. The team has rehabilitated already wells in 6 villages. After a simple "worship at the well" in one village, 12 new members were added to the church and 13 families asked for Bibles. Seeing the effects, a neighboring village asks for the same help.

<Living Water International, [www.water.cc](http://www.water.cc), 4/29/10>

**BibleSticks:** An agency has developed a small digital audio player preloaded with Audio Drama New Testament for soldiers on battle field who have little time and inclination to read. It is the size of a pack of chewing gum only 1/2 inch thick. 40,000 of them have been handed out.

<Faith Comes by Hearing, [www.faithcomesbyhearing.com](http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com), 5/28/10>

# Missionary Pre-Field Preparation Camp

GCCI organized a Missionary Pre-Field Preparation Camp at her headquarters in Sunnyvale, CA on July 5-10, 2010. The Chinese Christian Mission –USA was invited to participate in the training. This was the first Missionary Preparation Camp using Mandarin as the training media among Chinese churches in North America. The main trainers were Titus and Helen Loong of Hong Kong. The Loongs were medical missionaries before they shifted their focus on missionary training in 1980s. They have conducted missionary trainings in Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, New Zealand etc. One missionary couple, one psychologist, and two missiologists were among the trainers.

The Preparation Camp emphasized on field simulation and focused on the training of being, knowing and doing. Self-understanding, team building, emergency evacuation etc. were among the training, in addition to mission lectures, language learning technique, family life and field experience sharing. Although it was only a one-week training, the trainees were amazed that much was covered.

The organizers are planning to hold another training camp next year.

