

# CCC



---

## NEWSLETTER

---

**True Jesus Church [www.tjc.org](http://www.tjc.org)**



# MOSES' ANGER AT THE GOLDEN CALF



By Pr. Luke Hsieh

*The Israeli people left Egypt and came to Mount Sinai to receive the commandments and laws of God. Moses was on Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights (Exodus 24:18). When the people saw that Moses was slow to come down, they gathered to Aaron and asked him to make a golden calf for them to worship. The people offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the golden calf, sat down to eat and drink, and got up to play (Exodus 32:1-6).*

Moses was very angry at this golden calf incident, which was "righteous wrath", and thus received God's mercy, later the Israeli people were forgiven and not destroyed. Let us ponder and learn about how Moses' wrath began, passed, and ended.

## Management of emotions

The Israeli people made golden calves, sacrificed and worshipped, and God was going to be furious against them. God told Moses in advance, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought out of Egypt, have been corrupted. They will soon turn away from

the way that I commanded them, and they have made a calf for themselves, and bowed down to it. Sacrifice." (Exodus 32:7-8) God was furious and was about to destroy the people. At this time, Moses immediately pleaded with God, asking God not to be angry and not bring destruction to the people.

Moses was ready in his heart to face the corruption of the people. How can he feel comfortable? So when Joshua and him came down from the mountain, they heard the voice of the people shouting, and Joshua said, "There is a voice of war in the camp." Moses said, "It is not the voice of a man winning a battle, nor the voice of a man defeating a battle, What I have heard is the voice of man singing." (Exodus 32:17-18)

As Moses approached the camp, he saw the golden calf and the people dancing, so he got angry and threw the two tablets on the ground and smashed them. We found that Moses' anger did not explode suddenly. God had let Moses know the mistakes of the people while he was still on Mount Sinai. Therefore, on the way down the mountain, Moses should

have been sorting out his reason and brewing his emotions. This emotional management process is a cross-operation of rationality and emotion, like a dialogue and discussion between two friends. Moses was about to get angry, but how? What do you do when you are angry? What to say? How do you end when you're angry?

After the Lord Jesus entered Jerusalem, he also came to the temple and looked around at various objects (Mark 11:11). He must have also seen the merchants, the money changer's table and the dove seller's stool, but He did not get emotional, and still left quietly, went out of the city with the twelve disciples, and went to Bethany for the night.

The Lord Jesus must also be doing emotional management, and reason and emotion are also interoperating. How can you be angry? What do you do when you are angry? What to say? What kind of anger will not go too far, not sin? (Ephesians 4:26)

The next day, he returned to Jerusalem and entered the temple again. He began to cleanse the temple, drove out the merchants,

CONTENTS	
COLUMN	2
BURNABY	5
VANCOUVER	6
COLUMN	8
MONTREAL	10
TORONTO	11
ESSC	14
EDMONTON	16
CALGARY	17
COLUMN	18





overturned tables and stools, and taught them, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" (Mark 10: 1:15-17) (Isaiah 56:7) Therefore, the anger of the Lord Jesus is "righteous wrath", the "righteous wrath" that is pleasing to God.

### **Mistakes of the people**

The people have just received the ten commandments that God has promulgated, not to carve idols for themselves, nor to make images like the things that are in the heavens, the earth, and the things under the earth and water. You shall not bow down to those images, nor serve them (Exodus 20:4). Just because Moses lingered on the mountain and could not come down, the people wanted to cast a golden calf. Such a knowing crime would certainly arouse Moses' wrath.

And Aaron agreed to their ideas and demands, and asked the people to take off the golden rings of their ears, thus casting a golden calf. Where is Aaron's leadership wisdom? Where is the truth?

Aaron indulged the people and put the blame on the people, saying that the people were originally dedicated to doing evil.

The people have already sinned, and they can still sing, dance, eat, drink, and play, without the slightest sense of guilt or shame, without any anxiety or hesitation, and they can continue to sin generously.

Esau came back from hunting in the field and fainted. Jacob bought Esau's birthright with red bean soup and bread. Esau also said, "I am about to die. What good is the birthright to me?" Esau swore to Jacob that he would sell the birthright to Jacob, and he ate and drank, and got up and went away. Without any guilt, without any distress, he completely despised his eldest son status. It is too late to regret not getting the blessing of my father Isaac in the future.

We can get really mad at a person who doesn't care about his weakness and sin.

Moses' anger at the people's mistakes was right.

### **Method of processing**

Moses punished the people and made them confess their sins by burning the golden calf with fire, grinding it to pieces, and throwing it on the water for the Israelites to drink. Afterwards, all the descendants of Levi were called to gather before him, and they had their swords on their waists, and they went to and fro in the camp, from gate to gate, killing each of his brethren, his companions, and his neighbors. The descendants did as Moses said, and about three thousand of the people were killed that day. (Exodus 32:20, 26-28) These 3,000 people must have sinned more and were more influential. This kind of slaughter is not the blood of Moses, but the will of God. Therefore, it is written in the scriptures: "The LORD killed the people because they made calves with Aaron" (Exodus 32:35).

What you do and say when you are angry must be in accordance with God's will, not your own will. The actions and words of the Lord Jesus when he

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

cleansed the temple are based on the Bible, so the disciples remembered the scriptures and said, "My heart is anxious for your temple, and it is like fire" (John 2:18) (Psalm 69:10).

But man's ability to deal with anger is always insufficient, and he is often easily angered and acts foolishly (Proverbs 14:17), and a fool is full of anger (Proverbs 29:11), because man's anger does not accomplish the righteousness of God (James 1:19). ), so that a man of discernment is not easily provoked (Proverbs 19:11).

Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd. Cain offered the produce of the land as offerings to God, and Abel offered the firstborn of the flock and the fat of the sheep to God. But God looked upon Abel's offering, but not Cain's offering. Cain became very angry, and his face changed. Cain then went so far as to kill his brother Abel. Cain's offering was not favored by God, why was he angry? Why didn't he examine his own behavior, and why did God dislike his offerings? He also killed his brother Abel. Abel died innocently, and it wasn't Abel's offering to tell God not to look at Cain. Therefore, Cain's anger is unreasonable, but shows his own folly.

"Better than a mighty man who

is slow to anger, and better than a man who conquers his own heart" (Proverbs 16:32). To subdue one's heart is to have a high degree of emotional management, to be able to tolerate anger and not to express anger, even if angry, it can be appropriate and just right.

### God's glory

What Moses really cared about was the glory of God. When the people worshiped the golden calf, it was blasphemy against God and regarded the golden calf as the god who led them out of Egypt (Exodus 32:4). The glory of God was replaced by a calf.

God even said to Moses, he could destroy the Israelites, and make the descendants of Moses a great nation, and Moses to be the first ancestor of a new nation, how glorious! But Moses would rather not have such glory, and he even asked God to forgive the sins of the people, otherwise, his name would be blotted out from the book written by God.

We were moved by Moses' love for the people and his reverence for God. God rescued the people from the land of slavery in Egypt, and the people received grace freely, they should glorify God, thank and praise God for His mercy. So anything that robs God of glory will make people angry.

Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel in Lystra. One man was lame from birth. Under Paul's prayer, he stood up straight and could walk. When the people saw the miracles that Paul had done, they said, "God has come down among us in the form of men." So they called Barnabas Zeus, and Paul Hermes, and led oxen and wreaths to sacrifice to them. But Barnabas and Paul tore their clothes, jumped into the crowd, and simply stopped the crowd from offering sacrifices to them. This is to give glory to God. (Acts 14:8-18)

If a result of anger can glorify God and edify people, it is "righteous anger." If you are not sure, it is better to pray more and be more patient. Ask the Lord to guide.





## the First Church Service in the Chapel of Burnaby Church

---

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I would like to share my experience during the first church service in the chapel of Burnaby Church.

A couple of years back, we were asked to pray for the acquisition of a new church. Considering the amount needed and after situations, we felt the need of God's intervention to help us through our joined prayers. And He accepted the desires of our hearts and blessed us with our new church: Burnaby Church. "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your hearts." (Psalms 37:4)

The first service eventually arrived, and both Burnaby and Vancouver members were elated to see the new chapel. The turnout of the service was successful. The gathering was edifying to all that were present and I was touched that we all worshiped in one faith. The smiles on everyone's faces warmed my heart as we admired the new chapel. Our prayers and hymn singing created joy in my heart, and made me realize even more God's love and mercy to us.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone involved in the church renovation project for putting in their best efforts in caring for the house of the Lord. God has truly blessed our family to be a part of True Jesus Church. May he continue to lead us and help us grow our faith in our beliefs. I give back all the praise, glory, and honour onto His holy name.

Hallelujah, Amen.



## Reflection on the National Youth Ministry Training

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I share a reflection on the 2022 National Youth Ministry Training that was held in Vancouver. When I first heard of this event, I did not plan to attend at all. I thought that the event had nothing to do with me, as it was a ministry training. The event was also held during finals season, so I knew that it would be very difficult for me to spend three full days at Church without any time to study. However, my plan was not God's plan. God gave me an entire week of break in between two of my exams so that I had no excuses to not attend this training. Even though this event was unexpected and one that I did not spiritually prepare myself for, it was one of the most fruitful and edifying Church events that I have attended.

Before the event, I thought that this training would just be another

normal ministry training, teaching us the right attitude to serve with topics like humility, submission, etc. However, the speakers went so much deeper to strengthen our understanding of Jesus Christ and encouraged us to root our faith in God first before serving others. I learned that to become holy, I must believe and act according to God's righteousness, which has been given to us through the Bible. I did not realize how difficult it was to truly believe in the entire Bible and how little faith I had in God before. I also learned that in order to help others in their faith and stir up the love of those around me, I must first have the faith, love, and zeal for God myself. Through my own zeal for God, I would be able to touch those around me as well. Furthermore, I realized that the true meaning of fellowship is to share the love of God and spiritual life with brothers and



sisters and to use the chance to preach and serve. We often forget what fellowship is for and only focus on the activities that we do as entertainment. Although we are able to draw closer to other brothers and sisters as friends through these activities, we are not able to become true spiritual friends without the sharing of God's words. I thank God that I was able to attend the 2022 NYMT in person and learn about becoming a useful youth worker for God (By Clare Hung).

## Reflections on the Bible Seminar on Hebrews

In early April 2022, Preacher Steven Shek, who came from afar from U.K., conducted a Bible Study Seminar on book of Hebrews in the Vancouver Church. Thank the Lord Jesus, I have had the opportunity to attend this Bible seminar and have benefited greatly. Most importantly, this study completely changed the way and perspective of reading the Bible by myself. In the past, I had never deeply realized that the Bible is actually God's warning to each of us Christians who are walking on the journey to the kingdom of heaven. It was so in the past and it is so today. The message conveyed in Hebrews is not only an encouragement and warning to the believers of the apostolic church at that time, but more importantly, it is a reminder to today's believers, to wake up and warn today's believers, that the apostolic church of the past was declining because of these reasons. They deviated from the truth, and

the Holy Spirit left; in the same way, our churches and believers today will encounter the same situation, and we may also deviate from the truth, and the Holy Spirit will also leave us. What happens to others can also happen to us if we are not watchful and cautious. If we take every book in the Bible as God's warnings to us when we study the Bible, keep it firmly in our hearts, remind ourselves at all times, and ask God to keep and preserve us, then in the end we will be able to successfully complete this difficulty and challenging journey, back to the heavenly home in the end. Lastly, Let's all be reminded again by Hebrews 12:25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?



## Trip to Chilliwack Tulip Festival

On April 14th 2022, the Chinese Bible Study from True Jesus Church Vancouver held a trip to Chilliwack Tulip Festival. We all gathered at 9:15am and arrived at our destination at about 11am.

Thanks to the grace of God, it was a warm sunny day with a light breeze and the scenery along the way was beautiful. We had 39 brothers and sisters in the bus including nine truth-seeking friends. We were indeed greatly blessed as Lord Jesus sent three preachers to this trip with us, Preacher Steven Shek from the UK and Preacher Lin-En Wu from Taiwan. Both preachers recounted numerous testimonies all around the world, these testimonies were like spiritual foods and we were all filled and edified. Our resident preacher Timothy also acted as the tour guide for the day, he taught us a new hymn, "We are One Family". "In Jesus Christ we are one family... now till forever". Preacher Timothy even explained the origin of tulips and set up Q&As, it was a blast for everyone.

We are also grateful for Sis. Yumin and Sis. Susie for their detailed planning for this trip which started one month prior. As well as to Bro.

Tom Bong who took a day off from work and became our designated driver, his love indeed moved me. Bro. Tom testified the process of renting the school bus truly showed God's amazing grace. It was God's wonderful arrangement that we were able to rent this one-year old school bus with a tenth of the regular rental fees, thank God! Sitting in a school bus brought back all the lovely and joyful memories as a student and a youth. I considered this trip as perfect as we had several truth-seeking friends accompany us, thank God. Everyone had such a great time and took many photos.

At 12:25pm we headed to a buffet restaurant, and what a delicious meal we had! Great moods come with great appetites. There were hot and sour soup, dumplings, coconut sticky rice pancakes, deep fried chicken drumsticks, ice-creams and various choices of desserts. At 2:30pm we took a group photo. Though exhausted, we returned to Vancouver with a joyful, content and grateful heart and concluded a wonderful day with precious memories. Hopefully in the near future we can have another excursion. Thank God for His grace, may you have peace and health, emmanuel.

## Prayer changes everything.

Last month Preacher Timothy taught us a hymn "Prayer changes everything" in Chinese Bible Study. Not long after we were able to witness it, just as the lyric goes, "prayer changes everything, those who seek Him will see a miracle! God listens."

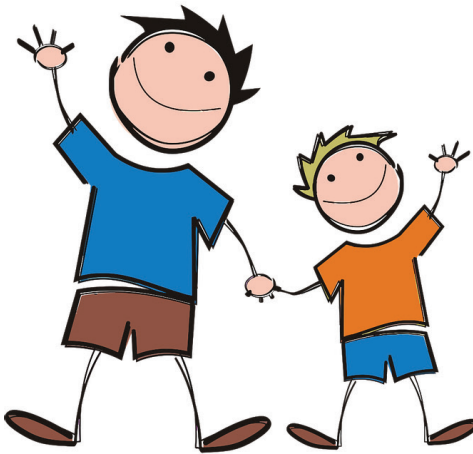
During our ride to the Tulip Festival, Sis. Yumin asked Bro. Tom to share his testimony about the process of renting the bus for us. After Bro. Tom was informed of the need in renting a bus for church, he first prayed to God before making a request to the bus rental company. To his surprise, the bus company offered us extremely low rental rates for the bus. Later we wished to have a microphone in the bus so that we can sing hymns and fellowship. The bus rental company was willing to exchange a newer bus without additional cost. As such we were able to hear testimony and sing and praise God during our ride.

This reminds me of Nehemiah when he was asking his king for permission to return to Jerusalem. He prayed to God in his heart, then God in heaven stretched out His hand and opened a way for him.

Today we have spiritual companions to pray to our Lord Jesus, hence the Lord provided us a smooth journey. As Vancouver rains often, we were worried that the field might be muddy. Unexpectedly the rain stopped the day prior and the field was already dry when we got there. Furthermore, it was a sunny day with flowers blooming. God's creations for mankind are indeed wonderful, we should keep His commandments, dwell in His love and He will surely be pleased with those who trust in Him. May all glory be unto the True God in heaven, amen! (By Grace Tsay)

# THE LORD'S BELOVED FAMILY

By Pr. Timothy Yeung



## Foreword:

Home - it is a very special place; we spend most of our lives in our home. When we are young, we grow up in our family. When we grow up, we also have to build our own family. Apart from work, we spend most of our time at home. However, in modern society, interpersonal relationships are complex and estranged; and family problems are very common. The home can even be the most hurtful place! If we want to transform our families and solve family problems, we must return to the Bible. The Bible records a family composed of three sisters and brothers, a family loved by the Lord. Their family was originally lonely and encountered difficulties, but they changed because they came to know the Lord Jesus. The constant interaction they had with Lord Jesus brought forth a different family atmosphere and grace. How did they interact with the Lord Jesus and become the family that the Lord loves?

## (1) Welcome the Lord Jesus into the home

"Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house." (Luke 10:38) The Lord Jesus preached the gospel everywhere along with His twelve disciples, without a fixed place to live. When they arrived at the village where Martha lived, if there had been no one to welcome them, they might have had to sleep on the streets. However, Martha, the eldest sister in this ordinary family, took the initiative to invite Jesus to come to their house. From then on, the grace of the Lord Jesus came to this family incessantly, changing the fate of these three people. Not only had they gained eternal life by coming to know Jesus, Jesus also helped them overcome many difficulties in life. Since then, Their family was no longer the lonely trio, but had the addition of the Lord Jesus in their home. The Lord Jesus also loved this home very much, visiting them often when He passed by; He regarded their home as his

own. Because of Martha's zeal in serving and receiving, she unknowingly received great blessings and built up the faith of herself and her family. Friends, is your family experiencing challenges and difficulties? Are you willing to take the initiative to invite the Lord Jesus to your home and let Him care for you and help you?

In fact, the Lord Jesus went to Martha's house not just for meals and rest, but also for a more important task, which was to use the truth to build up this family: "And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word." (Luke 10:39). When her sister Martha was busy cooking for Jesus and the disciples, Mary chose to sit quietly at the feet of Jesus and listen to His teachings. This was not because she was lazy and did not want to help, but because she felt that it was a rare opportunity that the Lord Jesus came by and wanted to make the most of this opportunity. She wanted to receive God's words, build up her own spirituality, and understand God's will. The Lord Jesus also said: "But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:42).

It turns out that to receive the Lord Jesus into your home is to put the word of the Lord at the center of the family. In the past, large families had a set of family teachings or family rules, and they had to be written in the most conspicuous place in the hall for the whole family to see. We believe in the Lord and thus our family teachings are the teachings of the Bible; our family rules are the commandments of God. Everything revolves around having the joy of the Lord. A brother once testified that his outlook on life has changed a lot since he believed in the Lord. He used to focus on earning more money for his family in order to live a better life. After coming to the True Jesus Church and believing in the Lord, listening to the truth of God, his outlook on life has changed a lot! He now understands that the treasures in the world are not real treasures; the true God is our inheritance.



Since then, the pursuit of faith has become the biggest life goal; he bought a plaque and put it in his living room. The words on the plaque say: "Christ is the Lord of my house". He hopes for this plaque to serve as a reminder that when he invites Jesus to his home, it is not as a guest, but as the master of the household. Tire is determined to lead the whole family with God's word. In our daily lives, do we really put the teachings of the Lord Jesus into practice at home and in our hearts?

***"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)***

How can we discuss God's word at home and honor the Lord often? Whether our family is happy or not depends entirely on where we place Jesus in our home - are we willing to let Jesus lead us in everything?

## **(2) When you encounter difficulties, you must tell the Lord**

The Lord's beloved family did always experience smooth sailing; sometimes they encountered turbulent storms. There was one incident when the younger brother of this family, Lazarus, fell ill. Perhaps this family did not live a very well off life, nor did they have the money to see a doctor. Perhaps even seeing the doctor was fruitless; his condition did not improve. This family, however, remembered: the younger brother is loved by the Lord Jesus; even if there is no other way, we still have the Lord Jesus!

"Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." (John 11:3). In their distress, they

remembered the Lord Jesus, because He is the Son of God, the Almighty God; He has the ability to help us!

If something big happens in our family today; someone is sick, or encounters great difficulties, who do you go to find first? A well known doctor? A famous specialist? Or, do we kneel before God for the first time, asking the Lord Jesus to come into our home again to help us? Do not forget that our family is loved by the Lord! Those whom the Lord loves must also learn to trust the Lord. Nonetheless, sometimes we may ask, "The Lord loves us, yet why did He let us encounter misfortunes and cause us to suffer?" When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." (John 11:4). The Lord causes the family He loves to suddenly encounter violent storms, suddenly in the midst of a trial. The purpose for this is to build up our faith and let the glory of God manifest. Oh, beloved family of the Lord! Let us not lose faith and hope, thinking of the Lord Jesus as our first thought when something happens!

Later, when the Lord Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead for four days. His corpse likely started smelling foul, Martha and Mary's faith also weakened, but the Lord reminded them:

***Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. (John 11:25)***

Sometimes the help of the Lord Jesus may not come right away. The Lord Jesus delayed for four days to arrive. It is not that the Lord Jesus ignored their prayers, but the Lord Jesus had His time. Those whom the Lord loves must learn to wait on God. The Lord Jesus asked Martha to become more rooted in her faith; believing that the Lord can solve any problem, even resurrecting the dead! Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" (John 11:40)

As a result, the Lord Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb alive. Yes, our Lord has the power of resurrection to raise the dead, and He will resurrect us in the future to be with Him forever, which is incomparably better. You may encounter great difficulties today! But what difficulty can be compared to "death"? For example, Christ can raise the dead, but what is the problem you have today? Beloved of the Lord! Please have firm faith in the Lord. When you have problems or difficulties, seek the Lord Jesus as soon as possible, kneel down and pray fervently, and ask the whole church to pray with the same spirit, and the Lord will open the way.

***In my distress I cried to the Lord, And He heard me. (Psalm 120:1)***

***In addition, the Lord Jesus not only wants to help the family He loves, He also truly understands their pain. (Jn 11:33-35)***

***32 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."***

***33 Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.***

***34 And He said, "Where have you laid him?"***

***They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."***

***35 Jesus wept.***

The Lord Jesus is the Almighty God. He knew that Lazarus would resurrect shortly, yet why did He weep? It turns out that the Lord Jesus was influenced by the emotions of the people around Him. At the time, everyone felt much sadness and shed tears; Jesus could also feel everyone's despair and sadness. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, death entered the world; everyone now had to face the different phases of life: birth,

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 8

old age, sickness and death; then finally leave this world in tears, full of despair and helplessness. Jesus can understand our sorrow, hence why He wept.

In addition, the Lord Jesus felt sorrowful over the people's unbelief, lamenting immensely, and thus He wept. "Jesus wept" is the shortest passage in the Bible, but it lets us know just how close and intimate Jesus was with Lazarus's family. Today, as children of God, we must believe that the Lord Jesus can really understand us and share in our worries. Whenever we are weak and weep, we can approach the Lord Jesus and actively invite the Lord Jesus into our hearts so that He can comfort, support and care for us.

*"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)*

### **(3) After receiving grace, the whole family repays the Lord**

This family, greatly loved by the Lord Jesu, received a grace too great - Lazarus resurrecting from the dead. Therefore, this beloved family of the Lord immediately served the Lord and repaid His great grace.

*"Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil." (John 12:1-3).*

There are many people who receive the Lord's grace, but very few know how to repay Him. This family did not receive the

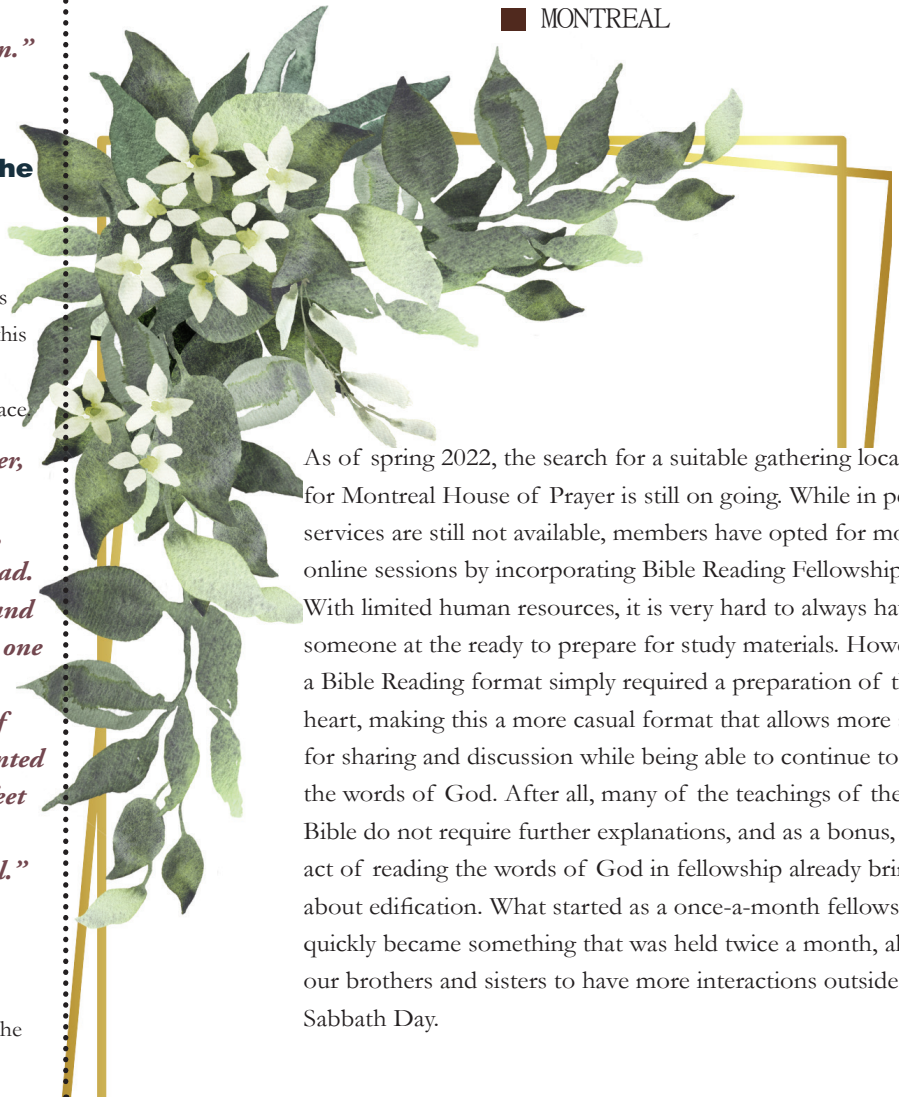
Lord's love in vain, but proactively seized the opportunity to serve the Lord. Martha received with her hands willingly, without a word of complaint; Lazarus sat quietly in the middle of the feast, testifying with his own life; Mary offered the bottle of fragrant oil that was reserved for the day of her marriage and anointed the Lord's feet, preparing Him for His burial in advance. The three of them were united in heart, walking together on the path of serving the Lord - dedicating all they had to the Lord, satisfied the Lord's heart, and also comforted the Lord Jesus. This family that the Lord loves became a family that loves the Lord. The whole household was filled with a jubilant atmosphere and grace, like the fragrance of the anointing oil

filling the house.

Paul said, "We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain" (2 Corinthians 6:1). Today, do you use your whole family to love the Lord? Have you and your whole family participated in the holy work of the church? Have you made repaying the Lord your family's goal?

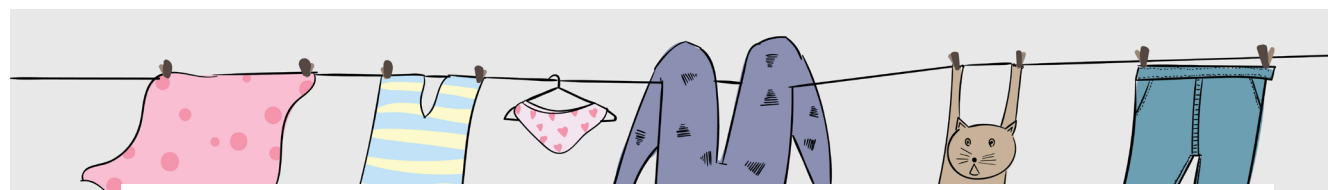
Conclusion: May each of our families strive to become a family loved by the Lord, and have a continuous and intimate relationship with the Lord. Grace upon grace. Glory to the name of the Lord Jesus.

### ■ MONTREAL



As of spring 2022, the search for a suitable gathering location for Montreal House of Prayer is still on going. While in person services are still not available, members have opted for more online sessions by incorporating Bible Reading Fellowships. With limited human resources, it is very hard to always have someone at the ready to prepare for study materials. However, a Bible Reading format simply required a preparation of the heart, making this a more casual format that allows more space for sharing and discussion while being able to continue to learn the words of God. After all, many of the teachings of the Bible do not require further explanations, and as a bonus, the act of reading the words of God in fellowship already brings about edification. What started as a once-a-month fellowship quickly became something that was held twice a month, allowing our brothers and sisters to have more interactions outside of Sabbath Day.





07/02 - 07/07	學生靈恩會 (夏天)SSC (Summer) - E1, J1, J2	Toronto
08/06 - 08/07	東區教員進修會RETW - East Region	Toronto
09/02 - 09/04	靈恩佈道會(秋季)Fall ESSC	Kitchener-Waterloo
09/07 - 09/11	靈恩佈道會(秋季)Fall ESSC	Vancouver
09/09 - 09/11	靈恩佈道會(秋季)Fall ESSC	Montreal
09/14 - 09/18	靈恩佈道會(秋季)Fall ESSC	Burnaby
09/21 - 09/25	靈恩佈道會(秋季)Fall ESSC	Toronto
09/22 - 09/25	靈恩佈道會(秋季)Fall ESSC	Calgary
09/29 - 10/02	靈恩佈道會(秋季)Fall ESSC	Edmonton
10/06 - 10/12	全國成人神學訓練班National Adult Theological Seminar	Vancouver
10/14 - 10/19	聖經研習營Bible Seminar	Calgary
10/20 - 10/24	聖經研習營Bible Seminar	Edmonton
10/25 - 11/03	聖經研習營Bible Seminar	Toronto
11/04 - 11/06	聖經研習營Bible Seminar	Kitchener-Waterloo
11/11 - 11/13	聖經研習營Bible Seminar	Montreal
11/11 - 11/13	聖樂營Sacred Music Seminar	Calgary
11/12 - 11/13	聖樂營Sacred Music Seminar	Toronto
12/17 - 12/24	學生靈恩會 (冬天)SSC (Winter) - E2, J1, J2	Vancouver

## Sacred Music Workshop

The **Toronto Church** held a sacred music workshop on November 13-14, 2021 on the theme "The 144,000 Followers of the Lamb" with the purpose of recognizing who the 144,000 followers of the Lamb are and how sacred music ministry can help believers become these 144,000. The workshop was led by Sister Tina Yang, who began the workshop by asking three opening questions to motivate the audience. They are: 1. Where are the 144,000 followers of the Lamb recorded? 2. who are these 144,000? 3. What is the seal of God? Through the explanation of the twelve tribes of Israel in Revelation 7:3-8. Revelation 14:1-3 From the scene on Mount Zion and the worship in heaven, we learn that only when we hear the voice of God and the harp of the elders, there is a new song sung by the 144,000 through inspiration; and only these 144,000 are worthy to sing this new song.

The six characteristics of the 144,000

mentioned in Revelation 14:3-5 are: 1. they who did not defile themselves with women, for they remained virgins. 2. they followed the Lamb wherever he goes. 3. They were purchased from among mankind. 4. they are the firstfruits offered to God and the Lamb (this is God's salvation prepared for us and is the work of God). 5. No lie was found in their mouths. 6. they are blameless. To achieve such a goal, we need to pray and read the Bible more and let the Holy Spirit fill us so that we can have the characteristics of the 144,000. The definition of a new song is also mentioned in Revelation 14:3. It is not merely a new song by the composer; the new song is inspired by the word of God and the sound of the harp, and only 144,000 people who fulfill these six characteristics have learned the new song.

There are five criteria for new songs: 1. not of blood and worldly trends 2. focused on the words of the Lord Jesus, truth and salvation 3. focused on exhorting believers

to imitate Christ and become a new creation 4. lyrics that convey only the truth and have no false messages 5. complete and beautiful sacred music can lift people up spiritually and help believers draw closer to God. When choosing songs, we can refer to the 144,000's criteria to discern whether the songs we choose are suitable for church use.

David wrote a psalm of thanksgiving to give thanks to God, from which he also spoke of the benefits of sacred music ministry, namely, (Psalm 105) reaffirming the covenant God made with Israel, (Psalm 96) praising the true God who reigns over all creation, and (Psalm 106) giving praise and thanks to God. A well-organized ministry of sacred music presents the truth to the congregation, encourages believers to renew their spiritual lives through the Holy Spirit, leads them to worship God joyfully, and gives thanks and praises to God in the adornment of holiness.

## RETW

The Toronto church held a RE Teachers' Workshop on February 20, with 25 teachers attending. After the morning prayer session, preacher Tony Guo asked the teachers to self-examine and evaluate themselves based on their daily spiritual cultivation and their care for the students through a question poll. Also, preacher encouraged them to read the Bible more, pray and cultivate spirituality, and set good examples for the students in all things. "When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice" (John 10:4) "He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters," (Psalm 23:2) As RE teachers, we are not only to lead the Lord's sheep forward, but also to feed them so that they will grow spiritually.

Deacon Tsai used thought-provoking questions for the teachers of each class to discuss based on different questions, and then each class appointed a representative to summarize the report. "You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Timothy 2:1-2) Deacon Tsai quoted these two verses to encourage the teachers to witness boldly to the truths they have heard and to have the thought of passing them down in their hearts. We need to learn about the continuance of ministry, the right attitude of ministry and the true meaning of the ministry, so that we can serve without shame to God and be pleasing to Him.

# NYMT Reflections

If we think back on the brothers and sisters who grew up in church with us, or the youths whom we watched grow up in church, how many of them are still sitting in the chapel with us today?

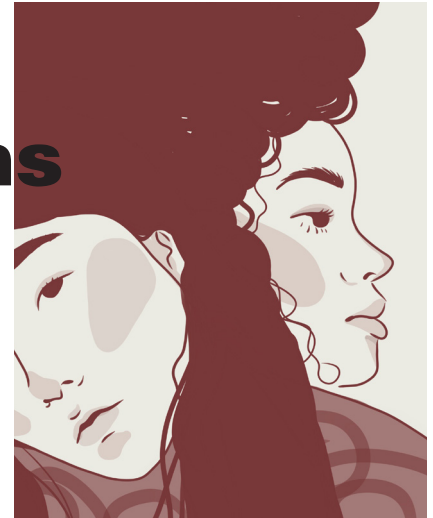
The mission of NYMT (National Youth Ministry Training) is to preserve, cultivate, and pass down our faith to the youths and the next generations of youths.

"When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel." - Judges 2:9-10

Youths abandoning their faith has been a problem since the time of Judges. Similar to the Israelites, because most of our youths have not made the same spiritual decisions and commitments as their parents or first-generation believers, many of them end up departing from the True Church.

## Growing in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus

The NYMT theme this year was "Growing in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord Jesus", derived from 2 Peter 3:17-18. It means that to serve in the youth ministry, or any ministry, we must always be seeking the growth of our spiritual knowledge. And we can only do this through the grace of our Lord Jesus. With so many different Christian denominations in the world today, and all of them interpreting the Bible differently, we must have a firm grasp of our fundamental doctrines and beliefs, so we don't end up



twisting the words of God ourselves, or be misled by heresies. We must be equipped with the Truth in order to discern.

Steadfast in ourselves vs. steadfast in God

In class, Peter's Denials was used as the example to examine our own individual steadfastness.

As one of the Twelve Disciplines, Peter followed Lord Jesus for three years. He walked with Jesus, ate with Jesus, talked with Jesus, listened to Jesus' teachings and parables day and night, and personally witnessed all the wonders and miracles. Theoretically, Peter's faith should be immovable.

When Peter was told by Jesus that he would deny Him three times, he even vehemently proclaimed that, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" (Matt 26:35).

Later we know Peter not only denied Jesus three times, he even denied with an oath, curse and swears in front of people. Peter's stumble was being "steadfast" in his own words and capability. He thought he could stand firm by his own power, despite Jesus' prophetic words. Thank God, when Lord Jesus turned and looked at Peter in the courtyard after his denials, Peter immediately realized his own weakness and wept bitterly.

After Jesus resurrected, He asked Peter if he loves Him three times by the sea. Though



Peter's conscience was grieved, his faith was renewed. And after Lord Jesus ascended to heaven, Peter switched his steadfastness to Jesus' instructions to stay in Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit. When he received the Holy Spirit, he immediately understood the will of God and got up and preached boldly. At the end of his life, he was even ready to die for the gospel.

As youth ministry workers, Peter's Denials teaches us two things. First, we must examine if we're also steadfast in ourselves, rather than in God's words and the power of the Holy Spirit. Second, it is as Lord Jesus said in Luke 22:32, "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." From Peter's temporary stumble, Jesus showed us the process of how to care, pray, and rebuild our fellow believers who have also temporarily stumbled in their faith. Or if we ourselves had stumbled in the past, we should also share the experience of our spiritual revival with our fellow believers.

## True fellowship

Fellowship is one of the best ways to preach the gospel and strengthen the believers' faith. However, fellowship isn't just about eating and drinking and doing fun activities. Yes, fellowship connects us to one another, but most importantly, fellowship must connect all the participants closer to God.

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." - 1 John 1:1-3

The origin of the word fellowship in Greek is

sharing. So every fellowship must involve the sharing of spiritual life. Besides eating and drinking together, we must share about what we've heard, seen, or touched (experienced) God.

Some potential topics we could share about include: how we came to believe, how we received the Holy Spirit, testimonies we heard or experienced ourselves. We share, others share, and everyone's faith would be strengthened. Not only are we physically nourished, we are also spiritually nourished. Every fellowship should bring every participant closer to God. If everyone can "touch" God, then nobody would leave church.

Fellowship doesn't have to be a Bible study every time. For example, the Vancouver church recently rented a school bus to see the tulip blossom. Because the bus ride was quite long, the fellowship coordinator used the bus mic to talk about God's creation of flowers and plants (an outdoor fellowship trip usually attracts a lot of Truth-seekers), and the rest of the time for hymn singing.

## Rekindling the zeal of the youths

Many of us are worried about the lack of zeal in our youths today. But this time in NYMT, we're taught that the zeal must start with ourselves. We must first kindle our own zeal and fire.

It is like the lyrics in hymn 499 Pass It On (my favourite hymn I was a 'younger youth'):

"It only takes a spark,

To get a fire going,

And soon all those around,

Can warm up in its glowing,

That's how it is with God's love

Once you've experienced it

You spread His love to ev'ryone

You want to pass it on."

We could be that spark. It could start with you. We can't focus on every single person at the same time. Instead, we focus on "warming up" one or two people, and once their zeal and fire gets going, they would go on to warm up two or more people, and the numbers would continue to double and spread and eventually, we will have a big fire, a group of zealous youths. That is how we rekindle the zeal of our youths. After all, who isn't attracted by warm, glowing fire?

## Summary

The main reason many youths leave Church today is because they've never felt the deep connection to God. They haven't "touched" God yet.

When we serve in the youth ministry or any ministry, we must start from ourselves. We need to have a growth mindset towards our spiritual knowledge. Our doctrines and basic beliefs must be rooted deeply, so we would not be led astray by the false teachings of this world. We need to be steadfast in God's words and the power of the Holy Spirit, rather than ourselves. Before we even think of rekindling others' zeal, we must ensure our own zeal is ablaze. Then, we can pass and spread that zeal to others.

This year, the NYMT took place in Vancouver, spanning over three days. It was the first time we had held a national in-person event since the COVID-19 outbreak. Thank God, it was a great joy seeing fellow brothers and sisters in-person again, especially the ones outside of my own local church (Toronto). May God remember the ministers, and all the brothers and sisters who organized the training event.

All of us are called to be his workers, to preach the gospel, to feed His lambs. We are to become the light of His kingdom. So let's all love tenderly and serve one another, and walk humbly with God.

May God bless all the youths and youth ministry workers. (By: Henry Hsu)

## Gospel Tea Fellowship

The Toronto church could finally host an in-person Gospel Tea Fellowship after a gap of more than two years, from September 2019 to May 2022. A beautiful e-invitation card was sent to our truth-seeking friends by our brothers and sisters along with our sincere invitations. We invited our truth-seeking friends to join us on Sunday, May 1 from 2:00-4:00 pm at church.

The theme of this Gospel Tea Fellowship is "A More Abundant Life". The Lord said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly". Our Lord is the Lord of life, and brings the Word of life, which the apostles heard, saw with their eyes, looked upon, and handled. And all we need to do is to preach this Word, so that people may receive life through knowing the Lord.

At 1:00 pm on May 1, brothers and sisters from the Gospel Team arrived at the church one after another to make preparations before the fellowship. The sisters from the snack team even came to the church as early as 10:00 am. Thanks to them for arranging the snacks, setting up the chapel, preparing the gospel booklet and receiving the truth-seeking friends, each task went smoothly and in order.

Seven truth-seeking friends came that day, and two of them were first-time visitors from outside the church. Deacon Tsai made a slight adjustment in the sermon to cater to the outside church believers. Thank the Lord that the truth-seeking friends were able to enjoy the atmosphere of the fellowship. Especially the conversation during the snack sharing, everyone had quite a good time conversing and felt that the time was too short. The concluding prayer was left until after the refreshment fellowship, which made the whole tea fellowship even more wonderful.

We pray that the Lord will continue to lead the church's evangelical ministry, stir up the fervent hearts of the group members, and follow up on the growth of our truth-seeking friends' faith. Finally, we will reflect in mutual encouragement and sharing, so that we can prepare for our next Gospel Tea Fellowship.

ESSC



### Burnaby, May 19-22, 2022

Praise God for His guidance during the first ESSC Burnaby Church in the Chapel. Through His worker, He taught us to know Jesus is the Way, the True Vine, and the True God during Evangelical Service and to learn from our Lord Jesus overcome the temptations, kept the Sabbath, kept Peter, does not seek the glory of man and will come quickly during Spiritual Convocation. Our Lord Jesus is the only way to get Salvation (John 14:6), the only True Vine can help us to bear fruit through His Spirit (John 15:1, 2:3-6) and the only God that we need to worship (Isaiah 46:9). Our Lord Jesus also overcomes the temptations (Matthew 4:1-11), kept the Sabbath (Luke 4:16, Mark 1:21-29), kept Peter (Luke 22:31-34), do not receive the honor from man (John 5:41-44) and will come quickly (Revelation 22:6-7, 12, 20).

We, as believers, must have the mindset to accomplish what our Lord Jesus commanded us to preach, to tell, to share about Jesus to our family members, friends and others, to get salvation and to receive eternal life only through Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15-16, John 17:3).

Thanks God during ESSC a few truth-seekers came and 6 newly baptized, He added to Burnaby Church. One of the newly baptized received the Holy Spirit before baptism when she was waiting for her husband in the truck. She prayed at that time. Through this, it let us know that God was in every place and He was waiting for His children to come to Him and ask Him for the promise of the Holy Spirit and He will give freely (Luke 11:13). Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit many members bear fruit and everyone's unity to be part of this ESSC, to help each other, to work in different fields according to the diversities of gifts that God gave (I Corinthians 12:4). Some help in Usher, AV, Pianist, Translator, cooking, etc.

Lastly believers also need to learn from Lord Jesus how to overcome the temptations, to keep the Sabbath, to be humble and gentle, always glorify God in every situation and prepare to be ready for the Lord Jesus' second coming. Amen.



## Edmonton

May 27th – 29th - Evangelical Service and Spiritual Convocation

This year, Preacher Tony Kuo had assisted Edmonton Church in our Spring Evangelical Service and Spiritual Convocation. The theme for this ESSC was A pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith, which is inspired by the passage recorded in 1 Timothy 1:5. On the Sabbath day, our Evangelical Service was titled, “Lord Jesus is the Way”. As sojourners on Earth, we are all searching and trying to meet a goal in life. Through this sermon, we learned that our final destination is the Lord Jesus, and that He is the way of life. Through Him, we are able to humbly walk this path with joy knowing that at the end, we will be with the Lord forever in the Heavenly Kingdom.

Thank God – through the pandemic years, Edmonton Church was able to learn, improve, and increase accessibility to sermons and fellowships through online means such as live stream; whilst simultaneously learning how to use technological applications such as Zoom in the process. Through Zoom, we were able to connect with one another and with brothers and sisters around the world. We have had the pleasure of having Sister Cindy Liu from Irvine Church share her testimony of God’s grace and protection throughout her life. In compliment, our choir group shared and offered several beautiful hymns to the Lord throughout the ESSC.

Praise be to God as we were able to hold a baptism this ESSC and we welcomed our new brother in Christ – Alan. May the Lord continue to guide his footsteps and build up his faith in Him.

## Toronto

Thank God that by his grace and guidance, Toronto church was able to hold its Spring ESSC from May 11th to 15th. We were assisted by Pr. Vuthy and Dn. Yang from the US. The theme of this ESSC was “A pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith”. This was the first ESSC in over two years that was held without capacity limits in Toronto church, which was a great blessing from God. Even though there was still a masking requirement, it was great to see everyone gathered at church to worship and praise God once again. Thank God that in this ESSC, there was one baby brother who was baptized into the true church (Bro. Gabriel). Thank God for His guidance that over the span of 5 days we were all able to partake of such a wonderful spiritual feast!(By Edward Yang)



Burnaby Church



Edmonton Church



Toronto Church



Calgary Church

## Conductor Training Workshop Sharing

Since May, under tutelage of Sister Ann Ho & God's guidance, Edmonton Church has been hosting a workshop series open to anyone interested in choir conducting. The goal of these sessions is to not just learn the technical aspects such as vocal warmup & understand musical terminology, but to experience what it means to guide others to sing for the Lord. Below, we have Sister Santi – who is currently Edmonton Church's Choir Leader, share some of her thoughts and what she has learned throughout these past few workshops.

"For me, the Conductor training that Sister Ann led was very helpful in learning the right way to conduct, whether it's conducting as a hymnal leader or as a choir conductor.

I am still new in the choir and conducting area, so understanding in depth and in detail the role of a conductor is very important. From learning how to lead choir practices, to having proper gestures and facial expressions, and even to things as little as correct hand positioning; these have all aided me in truly knowing and understanding the purpose of servitude through conducting. In this sense, it has also guided me to have a ground understanding of what I must do in serving the Lord regarding this area of work. To learn from David to have a zealous heart - to lead the choir as a soldier of Christ, and to be prepared for spiritual battle! The battle that can be won through the hearts of each and every member in the choir when they sing their hopeful song, bringing the story or the message of the hymn to life; and when the audience can see and feel the message behind the hymn, they will be touched by the heart of the choir members."

Thank God for this opportunity to learn more about conducting as Edmonton church continues to build our choir group and train more hymnal leaders to serve the Lord.



## Service Leaders' Workshop (June 17th – 19th)

This year, Edmonton church was able to hold a Sermon Leader Workshop open to all members and especially for all sermon and bible study leaders. This three-day workshop that was held from June 17th – 19th and was led by Deacon Tsai from Toronto church. The purpose of this workshop was to learn how to organize and lead a sermon and understand why it is important. Throughout the workshop, not only did we learn how to format and write a sermon, but we also learned the application of Hermeneutics, the different types of sermons there are, what to avoid when preparing and giving a sermon, and much more. This workshop ended on the Sunday afternoon, where a practicum and feedback session was held. Each existing sermon leader had a chance to use what they learned to speak and receive feedback from Deacon Tsai.

Thank God for this wonderful opportunity to hold this workshop and we pray that through the workshop lessons we had, it will inspire many more members to want to serve the Lord in leading Sermon as well as Bible studies.



## Service Leaders' Workshop

2022/06/23-2022/06/26

The CCC sent Dn. K.C. Tsai from Toronto Church to assist us with a four-day service leaders' workshop. He reminded the service leaders to use "Introduction, Body, Conclusion" as the main guidelines for the direction and content of their sermons.

Furthermore in this workshop, Dn. Tsai supplemented on the following points concerning homiletics and hermeneutics:

1) Homiletics: A sermon is not merely a personal discourse given by the speaker, but a process which includes four basic elements: the sermon speaker, the audience, the message and the church's situation, and, it must have God as the central theme.

2) Hermeneutics: The purpose of teaching bible passages and applying them in our daily lives is so that we can understand what God wants His people in the past and believers today to learn.

Through this four-day seminar, participants all gained a lot, hoping that they can preach the words of God even more in their future sermons.



## Hymn Leading Workshop

Praise and thank God for His guidance in the online workshop led by Sis. Tina Yang who graciously shared her musical knowledge and bible teachings with the 18 brothers & sisters from Calgary and Edmonton church. Although the workshop was only 3.5 hours in length, there was much to learn from Sis. Tina. We studied verses from 2 Samuel 6, 1 Chronicle 13, 15-16 which taught us that music should always be part of the ministry to glorify God. In addition to the bible teachings, Sis. Tina also shared with us how to analyze hymns in order to properly lead or play the hymns for hymnal worship. The workshop concluded with a practice/Q&A session which allowed participants to apply what they've learned throughout the morning and ask questions they have gathered throughout their servitude. Thank God brothers and sisters who were new or experienced alike in this holy work were greatly edified through this workshop. May God remember the labor Sis. Tina has put into leading the workshop and her contributions to the music ministry. All praise and glory be unto His holy name.



## Gospel Tea Fellowship

We held our Spring Gospel Tea Fellowship at church on Mar 27, 2022. It has been a year and half since we held this event in person because of the pandemic and the restrictions from government. Thank God, we had 7 truth seeking friends attended this time included 4 of them who were the first time came to our church. Also, there were about 35 members joined our fellowship as well.

The program of the fellowship included 10 min of hymn singing and prayer in understanding, 20 min of hymnal session, 30 min of testimony session, 20 min of short sermon, and 10 min of concluded prayer and introduction of the truth seeking friends. We also divided into a few caring groups to chat with our friends and to talk about faith related questions during the lunch fellowship.

Really thank God for His guidance through this Gospel Tea Fellowship to be smooth and had a great time with our friends. May He continue to guide our evangelical work here in Calgary.



# The Only Omniscient God

By Dn. K.C. Tsai

*The God we serve is the only omniscient God, the only one who has perfect wisdom and knowledge (Romans 16:27); no one can measure his heart, or be his counselor (Isaiah 40:13); Without any help, he stretches out the sky alone, walks on the waves, and makes the stars of the sky by himself (Job 9:8).*

In eternity he chose us in Christ according to his own purpose and grace (Ephesians 1:4; 2 Timothy 1:9), by the breath of his mouth he created all things, and by his own thoughts he guides us in the footsteps of those who have been called, He does wonders; He has no surprises, no setbacks, no regrets that must be corrected after mistakes, as the prophet Samuel said: "The Mighty One of Israel will never fail. He will not repent even if he tells a lie; for he is none other than the world, and will not repent."

(1 Samuel 15:29) — all should know his power, and feel his unceasing love and mercy (Jeremiah 3:22-23).

*He is the God who alone does marvelous deeds! (Psalm 72:18)*

During the period of kings, when His people served false gods, worshiped idols, and forsake His covenant with them, He used the cruel Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar as his servant (Jer. 25:8-9), allowed him to attack the land of Judah, tear down the walls of Jerusalem, and burn the temple that had lost the glory of God due to disobedience; and he let the Chaldeans take his people captive.

Through the prophet Jeremiah, He declared to His people, "When the seventy years appointed for Babylon are fulfilled, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place." And he said, "I know the plans I have for you, plans

to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:10-11)

The destruction of the Holy City, the burning of the temple, and the captivity of the people, was God's idea of giving peace? How do we see God's peace in disasters? Yes, they suffered because of their unfaithfulness, idolatry, and injustice in the country; they were drowning in iniquity, and God delivered them into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, and brought them out of their filth and darkness, an evil situation with no hope, and a true peace that has been granted to His people unexpectedly.

In fact, before this, He had already foretold redemption through the mouth of the prophet Isaiah, saying: After seventy years of captivity, He will use Cyrus the king of Persia as His shepherd to accomplish what He pleases: command the building

of Jerusalem, command the secure the foundation of the temple. (Isaiah 44:28) - He wants Persia to defeat the Babylonian kingdom.

God uses the rise and fall of kingdoms, and the evolution of human history, to reveal his eternal purpose and to perform his wondrous deeds.

***When He is at work in the north, I do not see him; when He turns to the south, I catch no glimpse of him (Job 23:9).***

God himself became flesh, preached the gospel of the kingdom of heaven on earth, was crucified and shed blood, gave up his life, and insisted on completing the grace of redemption. After resurrection and ascension, He gave the Holy Spirit from heaven to establish His church on earth. He also sent Barnabas and Paul through the Holy Spirit to preach the truth of the gospel to all the Gentiles; it was amazing that they went out and entered the synagogues wherever they went to testify about the Lord Jesus; when they were rejected and slandered by people, they were able to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles; although the Gentiles had different languages, they could preach the gospel in all parts of the country speaking only Greek.

Before the captivity, because of the disobedience of the people, God said, "I will deliver them to trouble into all the kingdoms of the earth, for their harm, to be a reproach and a byword, a taunt and a curse, in all places where I shall drive them. (Jeremiah 24:9)

Who knew that when the Jews were scattered among the nations of

the world, it was God who carried out His will to save the Gentiles? He made his people in a foreign country recall everything that they went to Zion to worship God in the past, and they were willing to pray to Jerusalem in a foreign land - the prayer life of the synagogue was formed.

From about 200 B.C., synagogues in various places in the Gentiles have sprung up one after another, like bamboo shoots after the rain; Jews seem to have found an oasis in the desert, where they can gather people to sing songs in different places, and pray to Jerusalem in synagogues all over the place, fulfilling King Solomon's dedication to the temple. When praying:

***When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to a land far or near; yet when they come to themselves in the land where they were carried captive, and repent, and make supplication to You in the land of their captivity, saying, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, and have committed wickedness'; and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I have built for Your name: then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their***

***prayer and their supplications, and maintain their cause, and forgive Your people who have sinned against You. (2 Chronicles 6:36-39)***

Of course, today we serve in spirit and in truth, and our prayers do not have to be directed toward Jerusalem. But looking back on history, the failure of the elect at that time (Romans 11:11) did not detract from the glory of God or hinder His grace of redemption; In disobedience and captivity, he took the place he had chosen to make his name out of Jerusalem, and brought it to all the gentiles.

## **Hellenization**

In 336 BC, the 20-year-old Alexander rose up in Macedonia and conquered all parts of the Mediterranean coast in ten years. Southern Europe, North Africa and West Asia were all included in the territory of the Greek Empire. He hellenized wherever he went, forcing the acceptance of Greek culture and the use of Greek language.

In 132 B.C., the Jews completed the Greek translation of the Septuagint in the city of Alexandria, Egypt, in order to enable their children who were scattered all over the world who could not learn Hebrew to know the word of God.

The world is changing, and God is silently preparing the way for the gospel of all nations.

When the Holy Spirit sent Barnabas and Paul out of Antioch, the way was ready, clear and full of bright prospects. The synagogues among the gentiles became their evangelistic strongholds, and

Continued on page 20

Continued from page 19

the Holy Spirit led them into the synagogues everywhere to debate the gospel of the kingdom of God; when they were rejected by the Jews, Holy Spirit let them turn to the Gentiles and preaching Christ to all nations in one language - Greek.

Gentiles who believe in the Lord can listen to the Torah and the Prophets every Sabbath in the synagogue in Greek. Paul also wrote Greek letters to explain the truth, citing the Greek Old Testament.

***Then the foreigners will rise up and feed your flocks; the foreigners will be your cultivators and vineyard makers. But you shall be called priests and servants of God (Isaiah 61:5-6a)***

These outsiders and Gentiles cannot be called priests of God, or servants of God, but serve the kingdom of God outside the circle.

The church of the apostolic age began at the end of the first century, and gradually declined due to the invasion of heresy, and the Holy Spirit stopped descending, but God did not stop the preparatory work on earth for the true church of the last days; British John

Wycliffe translated the Old Latin Bible into English, and by 1525 another English scholar, William Tyndale, had translated the Hebrew and Greek Bible into English with greater precision. The Revised English Version was published in 1885, from which the combined Chinese version was translated published in 1919.

The God we serve is indeed the only omniscient God who has acted in his unique wisdom in human history. We are busy with life and work every day, often being unaware that He is doing miracles around us.

***"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed***

***you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. "Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. (Deuteronomy 7:6-10)***

We are God's chosen people in the Lord's new covenant (1 Corinthians 3:12), and in order to give us grace, God has prepared the way for us to go to Him in different generations. Who can rob us of our inner peace and joy, if we can always keep in our hearts the "exclusive love" that He has for us above all the peoples?



**PUBLISHER/CANADIAN COORDINATION CENTER OF TRUE JESUS CHURCH**

**EDITOR IN CHIEF/ EZEKIEL LIE**

**COVER PHOTOGRAPHY/PHYLLIS TSEN**

**COORDINATOR/WRITOR/EDITOR/WEN-TING FAN, TOM BONG, JIAOJIAO CHEN, ALEX CHEN, RACHEL CHANG, STEVEN MA, MICHAEL CHEN, HAN-JOU KU, YANGBIN WENG, SONIA HSIEH AND LYDIA CHANG**

**ART DESINGER/WENDY CHEN**

**HOW TO REACH US/www.tjc.org/416-755-6052 / 69 SUNRISE AVE, NORTH YORK, ONTARIO, M4A1A9, CANADA**