

church times

THE CHURCH IN SINGAPORE

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Declare His Deeds Among The People

(Ps 9:11)

A total of 18 brothers and sisters attended the Spring Conference in Stuttgart, Germany, in March and the Working Saints' Conference in Hong Kong in April. Here are some of their testimonies.

A new appreciation of Christ in the Psalms

Thank the Lord for the chance to attend this conference. I enjoyed the Lord's word and the love and hospitality of the saints.

The brother shared with us the unsearchable riches of Christ in the Psalms. Previously, I thought David's psalms were merely his verse of praise, thanksgiving and longing for God. Through this fellowship, I saw that they describe not only David's own experiences, but also the Lord Jesus' sufferings when He was on earth – how He was attacked, humiliated and despised (cf Ps 69:19-21). Although David was surrounded by his enemies and persecuted, he still turned to God, sought His help and mercy, and even praised Him. Likewise, when our Lord suffered, He turned to the Father, trusted in Him, submitted to Him and accomplished His will.

Looking at myself in God's house today, I realised that when I meet with difficulties or setbacks in my service, or when I am misunderstood or tempted, I become weak and murmur, thinking that I have suffered greatly. Oh, how could my little suffering compare with the Lord's suffering when He was hung on the cross for my sins? Lord, teach me to learn from David, for just as You delivered him from all his enemies, You will also deliver me. Glory to the Father, amen!

The Lord's words are very rich, like a spring of living water. For details of the messages of this conference, do approach the church's audio library.

Sis Foo-Lui Man Wab

(Continued on next column)

He leads and cheers me all the way

I have always envied brothers and sisters who attended conferences in other localities, wishing that I could go too. But my reservation is to share about the conference in the church meeting subsequently.

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Come, let us take a photo for remembrance!



Eighteen brothers and sisters attended the recent conferences in Germany and Hong Kong. Here, we feature some of their testimonies. Our Christ is the Son of Man who walks in the midst of the golden lampstands (Rev 1:13), shepherding His church personally for His testimony in all the localities. May we be encouraged by the Holy Spirit's leading and blessings in the churches, and be stirred up to pray for them. We also encourage brothers and sisters to visit the churches in other localities and have more fellowship with them.

The editors

This time, when I heard the announcement of the Spring Conference, I prayed to the Lord and also interceded for my husband, that we could attend the conference together. Thank the Lord, He encouraged me with a timely word: “Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear” (Ps 56:3-4). So we trusted in God, registered for the conference and committed all things to the Lord.

After we came back, my husband, knowing my reservation, encouraged me to write about my experience instead. A sister also asked me about that and I agreed.

Thank the Lord for the warm hospitality of the saints, especially the brothers who sacrificed their sleep and drove all the way to Frankfurt to fetch us, lest we lose our way. Their love touched us deeply.

Praise God for this wonderful conference! We saw brothers and sisters of various nationalities and races gathered in His house to express His glory. Despite the language barrier, we enjoyed God’s presence and blessings. In the meetings, many European saints readily stood up to pray, sing or give testimonies, while we Chinese-speaking ones stood up to sing a hymn at the Lord’s Table Meeting. Hallelujah!

Every meeting was rich and encouraging, but Psalm 62:7 touched me the most: “In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God”. Our Lord has a wonderful plan: He suffered in order to save us. Not only so, He will also bring us into glory to reign with Him. Oh, may all thanks, glory, power, and praises be unto our true and living God!

Last but not least, the churches in Stuttgart and Zurich send their greetings to all the saints!

Sis Chen-Lew Ab Moy

Wonderful church life

Before I confirmed the air tickets, many saints had encouraged me to go and experience the Lord’s leading and the wonderful church life in Europe. Before we left, Eng Thiong and I prayed that the trip would not be “wasted”, but that we would gain the Lord and be gained by Him.

At the conference, we read Psalms 52 to 72 and shared about the unsearchable riches of Christ in His sufferings. Besides the word, I was very touched by the church life. The saints love and serve the Lord, the church and one another fervently.

Three of us were hosted at a couple’s place. Except for the first day on which we rested, we had lunch fellowship in the homes with different groups of saints throughout the conference period. Initially I could not see how this would be possible because of the language barrier. But from the second day, I was amazed at how the Lord worked. Every lunch fellowship consisted of saints from different parts of Europe who speak different languages. Although we speak neither German, French nor Italian, we never had a big problem. Sometimes

we had interpreters but sometimes we didn’t. It was the Lord Himself who removed all cultural, language and social differences. He has brought us closer such that we even shed tears before one another. What amazing grace!

I realised that we are so blessed in the church in Singapore as we have many saints around us. In most of the churches in Europe, their numbers are smaller and they have a heavy burden, yet they serve in one accord. Seeing the church being built up, I am encouraged to go on with the Lord, have more fellowship with the saints and consecrate myself more to the Lord.

Sis Nancy Seah-Tan

A memorable trip

The Working Saints’ Conference coincided with the second grand assembly of the church in Hong Kong in 50 years. It was joy unspeakable to partake of the Lord’s Table with over 2000 local saints.

On our second day there, there were many things to do as the conference would start that night. After breakfast, we helped out with the sorting of name tags. After that, we helped prepare the booklets for the Lord’s Table Meeting. More helpers came and we worked together joyfully. By the time we had to leave for the conference, everything was done.

The theme of the conference was “God’s commission to the church”. When the brother shared that God’s desire is Christ and the church, many of us were stirred by the Holy Spirit to consecrate ourselves anew to God. Although the theme isn’t new, its value is eternal. Christ and the church is that mystery which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things, which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men as it has now been revealed (Eph 3:5-9).

We went on to see the riches of Christ. God desires the church to know His Son Jesus Christ, for His will is purposed in, executed and accomplished by Christ. Without Him, there would have been nothing, no church and no future. The whole universe and men would perish and all would be void.

To do God’s will, manifest the Father and accomplish salvation, Christ came as the Son of Man Jesus. He is the second Man (the first is Adam, who disobeyed God and could not accomplish His will). He is God’s beloved Son, God’s image. All God’s



riches dwell in Him. He is the Creator by whom all things were created. God has delivered all into His hands, and He has the pre-eminence. He is the Lord, the Head of the church and of all, the Executor of God's will. At the appointed time, He will head up all things in Himself. He will also bring the church into glory, to reign with Him forever in the New Jerusalem.

Everything the Lord was, said and did when He was on earth is for us to know God's eternal purpose. However, our knowledge of this is superficial; we remain at Jesus shedding His blood for our sins, receiving eternal life or seeking personal blessings, and belittle God's purpose. No wonder Paul prayed that "the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints" (Eph 1:17-18). God is calling us again to know Him and His Christ. May this be our prayer too!

God's will needs Christ and the church. On the cross, Christ has accomplished God's commission to Him. Now He is seated at the right hand of God and rules over all the earth. He exercises His authority and executes God's will on earth by the church (Eph 3:10), for she is His continuation, propagation and expansion produced through His death and resurrection. He is the Firstborn while the church comprises the many sons who will be glorified with Him as God's heirs. She will receive all His riches and power, and be filled with His fullness. God and Christ cause all things to work for the church that she may be built and may usher in the manifestation of the kingdom. The church is so crucial to the accomplishment of God's will! Oh Lord, how can we not give ourselves, not love You and the church? Father, give us a deeper appreciation of Christ and the church, that we may labour for this!

The brothers also shared about the eternal glory of God's kingdom, and exhorted us to see the church today in an eternal perspective. Although she is not perfected yet, when we consider her eternal glory, all the temporary difficulties and weaknesses we suffer today are nothing! We also considered other aspects of the church. For details, do listen to the tapes.

On the last day of the conference, the whole church gathered for the Lord's Table Meeting. Thank the Lord for His presence and blessings: the weather was beautiful, everyone was joyful, and all the activities, including the grand photo-taking, were carried out smoothly. At the meeting, many were moved to tears. The message that the church is the house of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth again touched us to give ourselves for Christ and the church. We rose and sang to our God and Saviour: Oh Lord! Your desire is the church. Expand Your kingdom and exercise Your authority. I yield my all to You, henceforth I live for the church. Amen!

Sis Zhuang Shu Fang

Captivated by His love for the church

Praise the Lord for opening the eyes and touching the hearts of many for Christ and the church!

I was most impressed by the aspect of the church being the bride of Christ. The Lord spoke so strongly to me through a very familiar verse - "Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Eph 5:25) - that every word pierced right through my heart.

"Christ loved the church", I did not fully appreciate this love until the Lord touched me with it personally. I felt this immense, deep, pure and indescribable love being poured out in me. I could only shed tears of thanksgiving and joy as my heart was so constrained by His great love to the church, who is us!

The second part of the verse, "gave Himself for her", also had a deep impact on me. I recalled John 15:13 which says: "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends". Christ loved the church with such a great love that He gave Himself for her. If I know how dearly Christ loves His church, who is His Bride, how can I not love her too? If I love Christ, how can I not love His church who is so precious to Him?

I was also warned by the condition of the church of the Laodiceans (Rev 3:14-22). May the Lord preserve my heart never to be lukewarm towards Him and His church. May His love constrain me to give Him my first love. Glory and adoration to our Lord! Hallelujah!

Sis Angi Ang



At the Working Saints' Conference in Hong Kong.

Testimony 2

But you are ... His own special people,
that you may proclaim the praises of Him
who called you out of darkness
into His marvellous light
(1 Peter 2:9)

One Monday afternoon some years ago, Brother How called the church office and asked the church to pray for his father at the prayer meeting that night. His father had suffered a stroke and was hospitalised. It was his fourth attack and also the worst; the doctor said he probably had less than three days left. How was very anxious for his father's salvation. Some brothers and sisters had on earlier occasions visited him and preached the gospel to him, but his heart was hard and closed.

That night, the church prayed fervently for him. We asked the Lord to save him by enlightening his inner eyes to see that He alone is the Saviour who gives eternal life. On the following day, some brothers and sisters visited him. Thank the Lord for answering the church's prayer! Although he could neither move his limbs nor speak, he was still conscious. By faith, we preached God's salvation to him again. This time, his hardened heart became a heart of flesh. He indicated with his hand that he wanted to receive the Lord! As he could not speak, a brother asked him to pray in his heart after him. After each phrase, the brother paused for him to pray similarly in his heart. After the prayer, the brother asked him to hold his hand to show that he had received salvation, and he held the brother's hand tightly! Oh, glory be to God!

Miraculously, a week later, he was still alive. However, it pained his family to see him suffer such ordeal. We also wondered why and asked the Lord to reveal the reason. When we visited him next, we met his wife. I realised the Lord had kept him for a few more days for her sake. I approached her and greeted her. She was very sorrowful because her husband was in great suffering. I comforted her and said he had already believed in the Lord. However, she asked, "Since the Lord Jesus is the Saviour, why doesn't He take him away quickly? Why still let him suffer?" I told her that the reason could be he was waiting for her to believe in the Lord. If she also believed, he could go in peace. At that moment, she was undecided. We preached the gospel to her and encouraged her to pray to God.

On Thursday that week, an aunt told her that she had arranged for a medium to perform some rites for her husband on the following day. According to the medium, her husband's spirit had already left his body on the day of the stroke, but was unwilling to enter the underworld because of the darkness he saw, so he returned. Through the rites, the medium would prepare the way for him.

When How heard this, he objected strongly and stressed that his father had already received the Lord and would go to a place of light. He urged

his mother not to believe the medium's words and implored her to pray to the living Lord. She was very distressed and that night, as she could not sleep, she got up and prayed to Jesus. She asked the Lord to show Himself if He was indeed the real Saviour, and to quickly take her husband away in peace. She was willing to follow his footsteps and to do away with the rites planned for the following night.

At about 9am on the following day, the family was asked to rush to the hospital as their father's condition was very critical. His wife comforted him that since he had chosen to come out of darkness into light, he could go in peace, and she would follow suit. After hearing that, his breathing eased and he left in peace.

At the funeral meeting, she told her relatives and friends that she would mourn a year for her husband, and then take the way of light as he had. After a year, she kept her word and was baptised into the Lord and His church. Today, she faithfully comes to the Lord's Table Meeting with How. Glory to the Lord, amen!

Twan T. H.



Announcements
& Prayer Items

Gospel Meetings

Date : 6 July 2002

Time : 7.30pm

Venue: Hall 1

Date : 7 July 2002

Time : 5pm

Venue: Hall 1

Baptism Meeting

Date : 3 August 2002

Time : 6pm

Venue: Hall 1