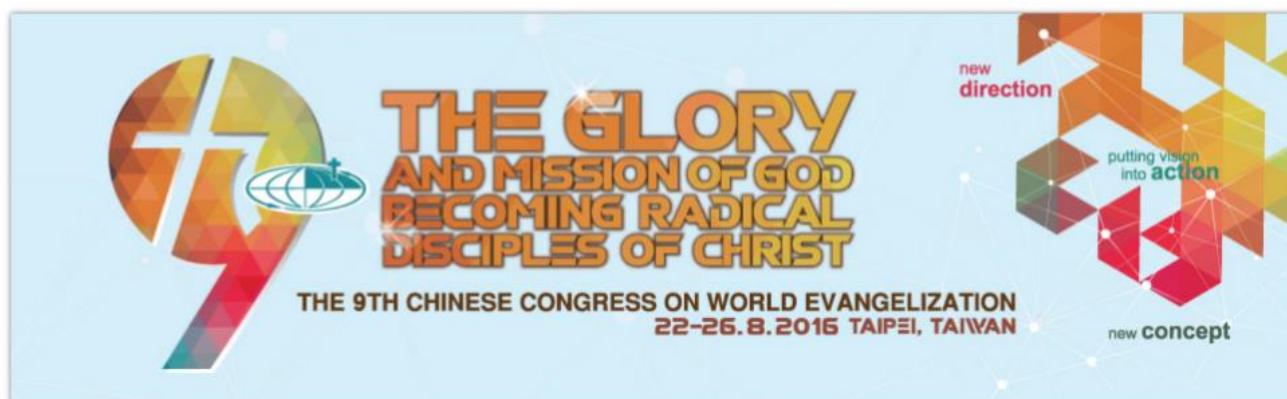




25 August, 2016

3 “Fs”- Friendship, Faith, and Face-to-face



Interview with Bishop James WONG Chong-leong
Bishop, Central Office of The Basel Christian Church of Malaysia (Sabah, Malaysia)
Reporter: Mu-tien Chiou

How long have you been in the ministry?

I have been serving the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia for a quarter of a century. I grew up in the Chinese congregation of the Basel Church at Tawau parish, in the southeast of East Malaysia. In my teenage's days, God's call came to me twice that He wanted me to be

a pastor serving His sheep, and in response I pursued Divinity Studies at Trinity Theological College upon finishing my secondary education. My ministry began after that.

Throughout all the years, I followed the denomination's transfer system to serve in Semporna, Sandakan, and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, and served either their Chinese mainly Hakka, English, or Malaysian congregation based on the needs perceived by the denominational head. Then I was appointed as the Bishop of the Basel Christian Church of Malaysia.

As the bishop now, I can say that the most challenging thing serving this role is the cultivation of the spirit of unity and solidarity among our 175 individual congregations. For even though by numerical count, 70% of them are Malaysian-speaking congregations. However, if you look at them, they are

mostly composed by East Malaysia's indigenous people, as well as some Indonesian immigrants. The congregations tend to be small in scale and their locations are scattered. If we say discipleship-making is the main focus for the Chinese congregations' development, the priority for the indigenous parish is definitely community transformation— both of them are about to entail an understanding of our gospel in a holistic sense.

What are the significant reflection and learning from the participation in CCCOWE so far?

For me CCCOWE demonstrates precisely the kind of mutual understanding and solidarity we attempt to foster within our denomination. I call that three “Fs”- friendship, faith, and face-to-face.

Friendship is about networking and the sharing of resources. Faith is about

recharging and realignment of our call and ministry. And finally, Face-to-face means

personal introspection before God. This conference provides an opportunity for us to

surrender our selves once again to God, to rededicate our lives as His vessels.

Intentional Discipleship-Making Starts from Family!



Interview with Jennifer L.
Doctoral Student, Missionary
Malaysia Baptist Theological
Seminary (West Malaysia)
Reporter: May Chan

Jennifer, Malaysian converted and called into cross-cultural mission in Singapore, served in Central Asia. At 11, she read an evangelistic Gospel tract that asked her to say a prayer to receive Christ. Since then, she had always prayed to Father. In the InterVarsity Christian

Fellowship, she served as a cell leader, and confirmed her mission call to go cross-cultural. Although she went back to Malaysia after her studies as her father was sick, she continued to search the road ahead in and for Christ. Having recalled that Muslims in Central Asia were quite different from those in Malaysia who were more fundamental, she served in ministries related to anti-human trafficking and deprived immigrants. In the seminary, she met her husband Matthew and now has a 10 year-old son and 5 year-old daughter. A friend in a group meeting for mission training asked Jennifer, "Why did you think God calls you to the mission field?" She gave the standard answer that you and I would give, "I want to share the love and Gospel of God." However, her friend challenged her, "It is to be more like Christ." There are a lot of paradigm shifts

throughout the years.

Jennifer said with a thankful smile, "The 9th CCOWE has brought me to a group of leaders with whom we can learn and walk together. With the daily messages, the special conference on youth ministry hosted by Dr. Philemon CHOI inspires me to work on the intentional discipleship starting from our families." Jennifer believes that trainings on parents to be Christ-like is of utmost importance as it in turn helps the discipleship in the next generation. Parents are indeed their daughters and sons' spiritual mentors. And, she thanks God that there are spiritual transformations happening in her family! Jennifer has a great love for young people while she is patient, humble, and meek with motherly heart on the generations to come.

Perspectives for Cross-cultural Discipleship & Missional Atmosphere Fostering



Interview with Dr. Greg PARSONS
Director of Global Connections
of Frontier Ventures (U.S.A.)
Reporter: May Chan

Frontier Ventures was used to be known as the U.S. Center of World Mission. “Hidden People” is another term used by its Founder Dr. Ralph D. Winter for Unreached People. The organization has a vision to bridge the gaps between mission issues. The interview’s questions and responses with Dr. Greg Parsons are summarized as follows:

May: What does it specifically mean by “bridging the gaps”?

Greg: Bridging the gaps

is a popular way to talk about bringing the Gospel to the Unreached People. In 1974, Dr. Ralph D. Winter gave a talk at the Congress for World Evangelization in Lausanne, Switzerland and it defined the mission focus for the next generation from the 70s on. Although many brothers and sisters involves in the church ministries, we are not seeing the Gospel going into the “Hidden People.” It does not mean that these people are hidden, but signifies these people are hidden from our views. Through education and training, we hope to mobilize churches to join cross-cultural mission.

May: How does discipleship link with the Perspectives?

Greg: Through the Perspectives course, we solidify what churches can do in different aspects of God’s global purpose. We hope to create and foster a cross-culturally missional atmosphere to send, feed, and support missionary in the long term. Perspectives is a 15 week course designed around four vantage points that is biblical, historical, cultural and strategic. The materials had been translated into Spanish, French, English, Korean, and Arabic. Cultural

difference is one of the main focuses. I enjoy teaching these classes. In U.S.A., there were about 8 to 10 thousand people had joined the course per year. It is a way to let churches know God’s heart for all nations and mobilize them to follow His heart, going cross-cultural with mission.

May: Have you thought of becoming a missionary?

Greg: Yes, I and wife did. We joined the organization in 1982. However, we don’t have a specific place or mission agency in our hearts. We were funding the campus in Pasadena, California then. I am leveraging all the connections we had built through these years. We are still waiting.

