



感恩与代禱 Praise & Prayer

福音自傳會

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Glory to the Lamb of God

Reverend Paul Chang
CNEC Ministry Mentor

“Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: “To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever!” (Revelation 5:13)

Following the celebration of the 65th anniversary of CNEC last year, this was the second time we were holding a Mission Festival – a praise and worship event, with the theme: Glory to the Lamb of God. It was held at Malaysia and Singapore on 8th of June and 9th of June respectively. Thank God that the outcome at both venues were encouraging and gratifying.

Who is the Lamb of God?

God sent His beloved son, Jesus Christ to earth to become the incarnate Lamb of God (Hebrews 10:5)

He offers His body as a living sacrifice to become the Lamb of offering for sin (1 Peter 2:24)

He who rose from the dead is the victorious Lamb of God (Hebrews 10:5)

He who ascended on high, sitting on the throne with glory will reign forever (Philippians 2:6-11)

Hence, every knee shall bow, tens of thousands of mouths shall praise! (Revelation 5:13)

Over 400 brothers and sisters-in-Christ from Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Kalimantan (Indonesia) and Philippines, as well as co-workers of CNEC, came together at Newton Life Church to worship our Triune God on the evening of 9th of June. Though we came from different nationalities, of different races, languages and cultures, we gave our praises to the Lamb on the Throne with the same mission, same vision and same determination.

The Festival was divided into 3 parts namely: Exalt, Testify and Proclaim.

First, we had six sisters-in-Christ singing in duet, declaring Hallelujah, Christ has risen; then we had the congregation reading aloud the scriptures, and singing the hymn “Because He lives”. All these were to declare that the Lamb of God has risen from the dead, and He is the victorious mighty King.

Reverend James Lai’s exposition on the essence of the “Lamb of God” brought us new life and hope. The solo items: “My Tribute”, “Be Thou My Vision”, “Deep river” and “The Holy City” presented by Mr Dennis Tsang and Mr Timothy Lai respectively, declared that Jesus Christ whom we believe, is

the only Savior who reconciled us to himself, save us, justified us by faith and give us eternal life.

With unpretentious and pure voices, the quartet from

the Lahvo ethnic group (Myanmar), sang “Praise to the name of God”, lifting heartfelt praise to the Lamb on the Throne who has risen from the dead. Ministry



sharing of our co-workers from Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and Laos, testified to the work God is doing through CNEC among the minority groups in their respective countries. Lastly, as the combined choir and the congregation sang the hymn “Holy is He”, we received God’s commission once again to continue with missionary outreach, to go and live out the gospel with all our might.

Thank God that this mission festival was one filled with glory, grace, and the willingness to shoulder the burden of spreading the gospel to all nations. I sincerely hope that with God’s grace, we could continue to hold such event.

I had my regrets during this period too. I was hospitalized urgently on the 5th of June, therefore I could not attend the festival held in Malaysia on the 8th of June. I was anxious and worried. Even though I know our faithful co-workers would do a great job, I longed to sing with all the participants, together in the same place.

I prayed to God for strength to get well soon so



that I could conduct the choir in Singapore. Praise the Lord, a miracle happened! I was required to be hospitalized for 5 days initially, but I was discharged on the 4th day (9th of June) instead. Hence, I was able to conduct the choir personally as planned. How pleasant is the will of God! "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8). I was filled with excitement and praise! God once again showed His love towards me, testifying His glory as the Lamb of God.

At this moment, I want to thank all brothers and sisters-in-Christ for keeping me in your prayer. Thank God that He

still uses me. I want to thank all churches of CNEC, brothers and sisters-in-Christ of Newton Life Church and co-workers of CNEC, for putting in all the hard work during the past 6 months, ensuring that this event was accomplished successfully and smoothly. Special thanks to our Brother Yee Fhei for bringing together a combined choir, planned the flow of the whole program and used his vast experience in music to partner with me. May our Lord remember what all of you had dedicated! May we continue to work together, to serve, to open up new mission field, to testify and proclaim His salvation— bringing all glories to God our heavenly Father.

Mission Festival 2018

The CNEC Mission Festival 2018 was held for two nights on the 8th and 9th June this year on both sides of the Singapore-Malaysia causeway. We praise our heavenly Father that a total of 856 participants, including at least 56 children, attended the Festival held at Johor Bahru Vision Perling Church in Malaysia and at Newton Life Church in Singapore even though many church members were away at their church retreats or on school holidays during the same period.

With "Glory to the Lamb of God" as the theme, the Mission Festival 2018 comprised of three main segments, namely, "Exalting, Testifying and Proclaiming Jesus' Redemptive Grace". In the second segment, Reverend

James Lai delivered an inspiring exhortation that emanated from the latest mission trends, complemented by the sharing of ministries in the respective mission fields by CNEC co-workers (ministries of Vietnam & Myanmar shared in Singapore, while ministries of Thailand and Laos shared at Vision Perling Church, Johor).

We praise God for the participation of the combined choir and the soloists from various churches, and their passionate presentation of

praise at both venues. We thank God for His faithful servant, Reverend Chang's rapid recovery and timely discharge from the hospital on 9th June afternoon and for giving him the special blessing to lead and conduct the choir for the final hymn "Holy is He" in the last segment of the programme "Proclaiming Jesus' Redemptive Grace".

At both venues, participants had the opportunities to visit the Mission displays and exhibition booths to learn more from the CNEC co-workers about mission in the different neighbouring countries in the region. Many of the conversations with the co-workers were very fruitful and the mission displays provided fresh perspectives and rekindled more passion for mission amongst the participants.

Like Reverend Chang, I am gratified to see so many

brothers and sisters-in-Christ contributing their time wholeheartedly and participating actively in the CNEC Mission Festival 2018 both in Singapore and in Johor. The response from the participants was truly overwhelming. Altogether we received 238 response slips from the participants. Many indicated their desire to pray for CNEC, become CNEC's volunteers, receive CNEC's newsletters, attend Mission workshops, participate in short-term mission trips, invite CNEC or mission co-workers to share in their churches or adopt an unreached people group.

We praise God for His gracious provision for all our needs. I am thankful that the strong collaboration amongst churches helped to bring the CNEC Mission Festival 2018 to a successful conclusion. I wish to thank Newton Life Church for stepping forward as a co-organiser with CNEC, providing their church premise as venue and supporting the event with 9 other churches in Singapore. Similarly, we thank Johor Bahru Vision Perling Church who co-organised with CNEC, provided their church premises as venue and supported the event with 31 other churches in Malaysia.

Finally, I thank God for His bountiful blessings. Through the CNEC Mission Festival 2018, I was once again reminded of the great vision of worshipping with many tribes and nations in heaven one day. I am sure that all the participants of the Mission Festival, like myself, are strongly encouraged to shoulder the mission responsibilities together and to broaden our outreach to touch the lives of many more people groups for our Almighty God.

Yam Ah Mee

Board of Director cum Chairman of the committee of CNEC Mission Festival 2018



God's Throne is in the World

Elder Ng Boon Teck
Newton Life Church

Thank God that the choir of Newton Life Church was given the honor and favor to participate in the Mission Festival 2018 (theme: "Glory to the Lamb of God"), co-organized by CNEC and Newton Life Church. In the past, we attended the event as participants. But this year, it is held at our church. Naturally, we should participate actively in this grand celebration. When we were notified at the beginning of the year, of the invitation to participate in the combined choir, our choir members were extremely thrilled as we would be serving together with our Lord's faithful servant, Reverend Paul Chang, whom we care for and are familiar with. Our hearts were full of gratitude and gratefulness.

God deliver despite the suffering

Under the guidance of our conductor and pianist of the event, Pastor Carol Ng and Sis Teo Suey Sung respectively, our choir began our practice with only one purpose in mind. That is, to dedicate the best to our Lord, to honor and glorify His name! We cherished this rare opportunity of service and carried out our intense practice with diligence even though we were merely presenting two songs ("This is the day the Lord has made" & "And can it be") as well as singing "Holy is He" with the combined choir. Just a couple of days before the event, Reverend Chang was admitted into hospital suddenly. We could rely on no one but our God for mercy and His mighty hand to heal his faithful servant. A wave of emotions engulfed us but we, of little faith, looked up to God and trusted that the Lord will watch over him, for with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. Jeremiah 33:3 says "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

Praise the Lord for He has listened to our prayer! Reverend Chang whom He loves, was wheeled in looking well and energized! We witnessed how everything was kept safe in His shelter and grace. The event was able to proceed as planned!

The throne of God is in the world

The choir and the congregation sang the final hymn "Holy is He" with Reverend Chang conducting. With all the neatly dressed choir members, the choir dedicated this beautiful song to the

Holy Lamb on the Throne with one united voice. Reverend Chang was a little out of balance when he turned to lead the congregation in singing the chorus of "Holy is He". However, our God held his beloved servant through the brothers and sisters-in-Christ around him. Gazing at the back of Reverend Chang, it inspired us to dedicate our best to the Lord! At that moment, I truly felt the Holy Spirit among us as described in the Bible: "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them be their God." (Revelation 21:3).

As voices of praise ring around us, we exclaimed "Dear Lord! We managed to complete a great and difficult task tonight!" All who participated in this praise and worship presented the whole programme to God as one. In an orderly manner, we dedicated praise, exhortation, offering, ministry sharing and so forth to the Holy Lamb of God. What a touching and affectionate praise and worship! Although the whole event was a little lengthy, I believed the passion was burning hard in us. I was carried along by the Holy Spirit when I heard the sharing from different ethnic groups of different countries. It seemed that God was asking me when can I go to the field and serve Him with others! This is how God manifested his power through his people, calling all to serve Him, glorifying His name, and singing the greatness of God. What a beautiful picture this is! All thanks and praise to our Lord!

Long-lasting excitement

The entire praise and worship concluded with a prayer. However, the excitement in our hearts was still palpable. Many brothers and sisters-in-Christ were still milling around in the worship hall taking photographs with each other like reunited long-lost friend. On the way home, my spouse (the pianist of the event) and I shared about the joy of being part of this event, the experiences and the many things we learnt from it. From Reverend Chang, we testified that "Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this" (James 4:15). From the ministry sharing, we realized that: Here am I. Send me! If you allow, I am willing to listen to your calling! From the co-workers, we see that: "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. (1 Cor. 4:2). I pray that our God will continue to place this mission of missions in all our hearts, that we shoulder this responsibility together. For this, I give thanks and praises to our God! Amen!



Sis Teo Suey Sung -Wife to Elder Ng Boon Teck (2nd row middle), pianist of the event

Realizing the Vision, Completing the Mission

Pastor Li Zhonghua
CNEC Myanmar field

I thank God for giving me the opportunity to participate in the Mission Festival 2018, with the theme: Glory to the Lamb of God, which was co-organized by CNEC and Newton Life Church. Through this event, I have the opportunity to hear the testimony and sharing from our co-workers of various countries. That motivated me to faithfully serve our God with determination. Jesus said: "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35) The words of the Lord Jesus once again reminded us that: "the harvest is ripe". Therefore, we need more workers to participate, in diverse ways, in the gospel ministry of the Lord so as to accomplish this lifelong mission.

Myanmar used to be a closed country. Although the constitution of Myanmar stipulates religious freedom, the people, in actual fact found difficulties in obtaining approval for the purchase of religious sites and to register the name of the churches legally. Usually other designations were used in place of "Church" for the name of the worship venues.

(1) Now that Myanmar is opening up, the political situation has changed somewhat. Now is the opportune time to evangelize. During the closed period, due to the stringent cross border travel restriction, people were prevented from travelling. Many worked as farmer for a living in their hometowns and very few had the opportunity to go



abroad or leave their hometowns to further their careers. Also, many people, especially those living in the rural areas, have no identity card as it is expensive to make one. Hence, making travel more difficult. Now that the country is more opened and situation has gotten better, many large entrepreneurs from all over the world poured into Myanmar to invest. Many young adults from the small rural towns started moving to the cities to work. Today, we do not see as many young adult as before in the villages (including those in the churches) because everyone likes the freedom and lifestyle in the city. In the past, most of our evangelism ministry focused on rural areas. However, due to the change

in situation, we may have to strategically expand our ministry to the cities. I believe that with the strength and power of the Lord, we can bring more people to Christ.

(2) Although Myanmar is opening up, the civil war has never stopped and it has been hit by successive natural disasters in recent years. Due to the civil war, natural disasters, and the easy accessibility of drugs, the country has never been able to walk out from poverty. Although the new Government cares and hopes to address the needs of the people, there are just too many poor citizens to provide for. However, alleviation of poverty should still be the utmost priority of the new Government.

Therefore, I believe if the Church would step in to help with the poverty alleviation effort of the Government, the gospel ministry will be developed more effectively. This is a good way to build bridges if churches were to give a helping hand in providing welfare services for the society. Some example: providing the basic needs for the poorest of the poor, helping their children in their educational needs, teaching the local some life skills, imparting some knowledge on basic hygiene, providing them with some basic medication etc. It is a much easier way to bring salvation to them through these channels. Nonetheless, in order to fulfill their needs in all aspects, we need substantial understanding of the situation in the country and active participation from our brothers and sisters-in-Christ so that we can realize our goal and vision of the gospel ministry.



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