

Pastor's Word – Pray for the English Congregation

Rev. Almon LI (07/12/2014)

I think everyone is concerned about the progress of the recruitment of the English pastor. You may asked why there has been no any suitable candidate to fill the post over the past 10 months.

The fact is that almost all the Chinese churches in Australia have faced the same difficulty i.e. recruiting English pastors to shepherd the 2nd generation of the Chinese. Among those Chinese churches I know, some are recruiting English pastors while a few have looked for suitable candidates for over 2 years. Our parent church, Northside Christian Alliance Church, is also joining this recruitment row.

We have in fact adopted the following approaches in recruiting the English pastor:

1. Through the Christian & Missionary Alliance of Austria;
2. Through the principals of various theological seminaries;
3. Advertisements in various theological seminaries; and
4. Through the pastors of friendly churches.

During the past few months, we had invited a few candidates to preach in the English Congregation so that they could know more about our church. However, they had not taken further application action afterward. Therefore I appeal to all members to pray for a suitable candidate for the English Congregation.

We pray that God will prepare a suitable English pastor to shepherd our youth. James 4:2 says, "You do not have, because you do not ask." If we really hope that God will prepare a suitable English pastor for us, we should pray sincerely and earnestly to Him. But the Bible also reminds us that God has His own time. God will give us a suitable English pastor at the right time. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

On the other hand, we would like to give thanks to God because we have Pastor Tony and Margie with us. They have served faithfully and loyally in our English Congregation to shepherd our youth. We thank God that over the past year the English Congregation has grown up. There have been youth leaders who are willing to take up the ministries of the English Congregation; in this term we have two deacons from the English Congregation; 8 young people from the English Congregation were baptised in the baptism service held in November. May all glory and praise be to our God.

We firmly believe that God has kept on looking after our church and our youth. We believe that God is preparing the most suitable English pastor for us, who will be with us when the time comes. However, what we, members of the church, should do is to pray earnestly: for the needs in our ministries, for Pastor Tony and Margie that they have the wisdom and health to minister, for the youth that they have the desires for God's Word and spiritual maturity. Amen!